

ESPACIO PÚBLICO PARA TODOS: USING PURPOSE-ORIENTED AMENITIES TO  
ENHANCE CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT IN MEXICAN PUBLIC SPACES

by

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A REPORT

submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree

MASTER OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Department of Landscape Architecture/Regional and Community Planning  
College of Architecture, Planning and Design

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY  
Manhattan, Kansas

2013

Approved by:

Major Professor  
Dr. Huston Gibson



## Abstract

The issues infested in urban slum communities are many, of which I had no problem identifying a dilemma specific to my interests in landscape architecture and socially equitable places. However, sustainable solutions specific to these dynamic urban forms and communities are unfamiliar academic territory. Extreme levels of poverty fostered in these communities cause deficiencies in a child's development, who are often without access to a formal, structured education system (UNDP, 1999). Public spaces are particularly stimulating environments for youth learning and development, but most urban environments in shanty towns host a milieu of violence and crime, making most public streets and vacant lots unsafe. These conditions are ripe for visionary designers to intervene, improving the physical aspects of urban public spaces and specifically bettering the quality of life for children living in these communities.

Answering this question required literature research and precedent studies, which was important for developing a thorough understanding of developmental theory as it relates to socio-economically disadvantaged children. By focusing my studies on public spaces in the neighborhood Vistas del Cerro Grande in Chihuahua, México, I began to understand the cultural idiosyncrasies specific to people living in urban shantytowns. Data collected from the neighborhood via surveys, interviews, community meetings, and an auto-ethnographic video study with fifth and sixth grade students provided an introduction to the community and the larger themes and objectives for future public space design. Visiting comparable communities in México City, México deepened my understanding as I was able to observe the daily lives of México City residents with diverse socio-economic statuses, hear their individual perspectives on the history and cultures, and relate to their frustrations with current political, economic, and societal systems.

The methodologies described above culminated in a design typology specific to Vistas del Cerro Grande, consisting of public streets, pedestrian access ways, plazas, and vacant lots. These types form the backbone of my research report, which represents an evidence-based design palette of purpose-oriented amenities for positive childhood development in shanty town public spaces. The typology caters to the specific needs of the Vistas del Cerro Grande community, as identified in the research.

# ESPACIO PÚBLICO PARA TODOS

Using Purpose-Oriented Amenities to Enhance  
Childhood Development in Mexican Public Spaces

LAUREN EWALD

ESPACIO PÚBLICO PARA TODOS

It was only a smile, nothing more. It didn't make everything all right. It didn't make *anything* all right. Only a smile. A tiny thing. A leaf in the woods, shaking in the wake of a startled bird's flight. But I'll take it. With open arms. Because when spring comes, it melts the snow one flake at a time, and maybe I just witnessed the first flake melting.

Khaled Hosseini , from *The Kite Runner*

A master's report submitted in partial fulfillment of the  
requirements for the degree of Master of Landscape  
Architecture (MLA), 2013

Supervisory Committee //

Dr. Huston Gibson, Regional and Community Planning (Major)

Professor Katie Kingery-Page, Landscape Architecture

Dr. Michael Wesch, Cultural Anthropology

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LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE  
/ REGIONAL & COMMUNITY PLANNING

THE COLLEGE of  
ARCHITECTURE, PLANNING & DESIGN // K-STATE

# *ESPACIO PÚBLICO PARA TODOS:*

Using Purpose-Oriented Amenities to Enhance  
Childhood Development in Mexican Public Spaces







# PREFACE

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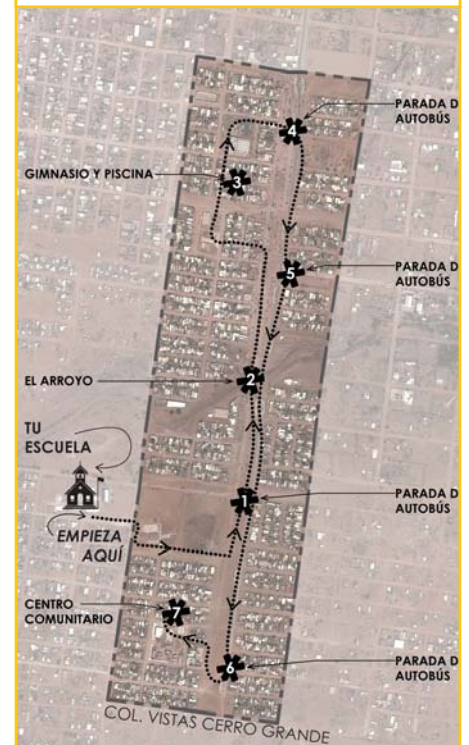
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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I first want to thank Professor Gabriel Diaz Montemayor, Arizona State University, and his colleague Rodrigo Seañez Quevedo, from LaBOR Studio. Gabriel and Rodrigo allowed me to tag onto their project for Vistas del Cerro Grande, which is the reason this report was possible. Their feedback and opinions helped shape the direction of my report and the artifacts they provided paint a comprehensive picture of the Chihuahuan neighborhood. I am indebted to their kindness and openness to my involvement with LaBOR's efforts.

I am especially grateful for my committee members, who provided guidance and inspiration throughout the duration of the project. My major professor, Dr. Huston Gibson, first allowed me to chase down an international, public-interest design project in the fall semester, and willingly offered his personal resources and connections to smooth the process. Huston encouraged me when I faced adversity and ensured that I achieved both project objectives and personal goals at the close of the project. Professor Katie Kingery-Page deserves many thank-you's, as she understands the in's and out's of teaching landscape architecture. Her feedback during studio classes is pointed and succinct, as it also was throughout the compilation of this report. She allows students to work independently and offers timely, critical inspiration. I have a newfound respect for Dr. Michael Wesch's dynamic perspective, who brought a new dimension to my report with his background in cultural anthropology. Dr. Wesch dreamt up the auto-ethnographic study with me in his office, which was one of the many brilliant bits of inspiration that he shared with me. He opened doors in my thinking and exposed me to new processes for achieving social and cultural sustainability.

I also want to thank my classmate Jessie, who connected me with her Chihuahuan friend, Fernando. Fernando was a *huge* help throughout the project and shared many insights and opinions about his country. His background in landscape architecture made him the perfect candidate for facilitating the auto-ethnographic study in Vistas del Cerro Grande. He followed the task through to completion, which forced a delay in his travel



plans, and took careful measures to ensure successful data collection and cross-country transfer. I plan to pay forward the kindness he showed me, as requested.

Professor Stephanie Rolley, the Department Head of Landscape Architecture and Regional Community Planning, has been a tremendous support and advocate for my success at Kansas State University as a student and as an emerging professional. Although I decided to pursue an unprecedented report topic she allowed the operation to continue, a blessing I take for granted. After I was told that I could not travel to Vistas del Cerro Grande due to the Department of State's travel advisory, both Stephanie and Professor and Associate Dean Lynn Ewanow worked persistently to connect me with contacts in México City, as they both understood the importance of my travel and understanding of México. Lynn reached out to Professor Marcelo Sabates, Interim Associate Provost of International Programs, who connected me with his personal friends in México City, Raul Gutierrez and his wife, Marianne Clement. Raul and Marianne opened up their home to me for a brief visit in March, and provided a highly individualized tour of the city. Raul's honest opinions illustrated the social, economic, and political realities of the country, which I was fortunate to hear, and shared a wealth of lifetime wisdom and advice. I am grateful for the time I spent with Raul and Marianne, and I hope to return for a much longer period of time in the future.

I also have to thank my classmates within the College of Architecture, Planning, and Design. Aaron Garcia sat through hours of video footage with me and helped translate the data to English for my use. He patiently answered all of my questions and also provided important background information on the city of Chihuahua, as he has family members living south of the city. Olivia Pitt-Perez and her mother helped me translate consent forms for the auto-ethnographic study, which was especially important for the Internal Review Board (IRB) approval process. Ed Alvarado connected me with his cousin Luis Felipe Rodríguez López, who biked with me through México City and expanded my perspective of the city further. Will Leonard taught me how

to use video editing software on the fly, which culminated in a representative video that may become an agent for future initiatives in Vistas del Cerro Grande.

Kaitlyn, Cammie, Aaron, Austin, Angela, Jessie, Sarah, Charles, and Jeremy encouraged me early on in the beginning, middle, and final phases of the proposal and report. Whether it was a brainstorm session, a prayer over the phone, or simply a five-minute hug, these friends and/or classmates were the greatest emotional supports imaginable. Jill Kurtz, an adjunct professor at Kansas State, opened up a realm of possibilities in public-interest design during her winter intersession course; I am grateful for her encouragement and inspiration. I'd also like to thank the rest of my graduating classmates in landscape architecture: as a whole we have a lot to offer to the profession, and I cannot wait to see the things that the Kansas State University Class of 2013 accomplishes over the next several years.

Last but not least I want to thank my family for their support and encouragement. Although my brother and sister are technically younger I am blown away by their dreams and accomplishments. I was happy to share my excitement for Vistas del Cerro Grande with them both. I know my parents sometimes call me crazy, but they endorsed my involvement with this Mexican community. I am sincerely grateful for their ongoing love, concern, encouragement, and blessings.

INTR

# INTRODUCTION

Project Background

Project Objectives and Personal Goals

Project Specifics

# INTRODUCTION

## **Culmination of Social, Economic, and Political Factors Driving Urban Growth Patterns ►**

*Global driving forces that result in social inequality and rapid urbanization.*

*Figure 1.1 // (Ewald, 2012)*

## **Project Background**

### **Urban Decline and Global Poverty**

The sketch on the opposite page (see Figure 1.1) begins to illustrate the complex myriad of issues driving urban decline, particularly in countries south of the equator. Globalization and rapid urbanization are at the forefront, resulting in economic decline, social tension, and political corruption.

Poverty-stricken populations around the world are without access to basic goods and services, including water, sanitation, waste disposal, health services, transportation, food, technology, and education.

Rapid urbanization remains unaddressed in developing countries, resulting in makeshift spatial forms and sporadic, seemingly random settlement patterns. Although shanty town and slum settlements appear to be disorganized and informal, these highly-organized urban clusters are home to 1 in 6 people worldwide; and by 2030 the number of people living in slums is expected to double from 1 billion to 2 billion (Smith, 2011). Extreme levels of poverty fostered in these communities causes deficiencies in a child's development, who are often without access to a formal, structured education system (UNDP, 1999).

These conditions are ripe for visionary designers to intervene, working with communities in participatory planning processes to set goals and begin implementing sustainable, problem-solving solutions. The needs in developing countries are extremely urgent, and cannot be further delayed as the number of people living in informal areas across the world steadily increases.

### **Decline in Mexico: The Case of Vistas del Cerro Grande, Chihuahua**

The index of Human Development, a ranking system created by the United Nations to gauge the success of countries around the globe in terms of overall life expectancy, general educational attainment, and income levels, puts México at 53<sup>rd</sup> internationally out of 177 countries. Although this outlook seems positive for younger generations, the majority of the Mexican



INEQUALITY

one of the coming of the world

(Conyers and Hills, 1984, p. 46)

SOCIAL INJUSTICE

POVERTY

MIGRATION

NO ACCESS

GOODS and SERVICES

rooted in ECONOMIC

DOWN

1.3 billion do not have access to water  
1 in 7 kids are not in school  
840,000,000 are malnourished  
1.3 billion live on less than \$1/day



population is youthful (48 percent of the country is composed of adolescents 17 and under), and is already living in extreme poverty conditions.

(Carreon, 2006)

To meet the future demands of adolescents, México must adequately provide for the nutrition, health, education, and lifestyles of youth. Changes must be made quickly as estimates indicate that eight million Mexican children between the ages of five and 14 report to work on a daily basis instead of attending school (Carreon, 2006). This number is on the rise as more Mexican adults face unemployment every year and rely on their sons and daughters for support during economic hardship (Quintana, 2011).

To acquaint the reader with the neighborhood of study in Chihuahua I will begin with an introduction to the country of México and gradually zoom-in to the site location (see Figure 1.2 and 1.3). I will only provide a brief introduction to the socio-economic context occurring at each scale, as this will be further discussed in the next section, the Project Basis.

Located in a developing country, México City, México is an example of urban primacy. Urban primacy is both spatial and conceptual, referring to the supreme dictatorship of one city in any given country (Herzog, 1999). México City has a domineering position in the country's politics, economy, and cultural fabric. The alpha metropolitan center epitomizes a "superior" architectural design standard which is typically exported to other Mexican



cities. I will further discuss the traditional and contemporary characteristics of Mexican architecture and urban landscapes in the Project Basis section.

The neighborhood of study, Vistas del Cerro Grande, is located in the state of Chihuahua, which is one of six Mexican states in the northern US-México border region. The other Mexican states are Baja California, Sonora, Coahuila, Nuevo Leo, and Tamaulipas. There are also four US states that are a part of the US-México border region, which includes California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas. *La frontera*, or the border region, is a trans-cultural urban landscape representing a fusion of both US and Mexican social and cultural values (Herzog, 1999). These geographical dynamics provide a unique backdrop for the entirety of this report.

Continuing to zoom-in closer to the project site, the state of Chihuahua is most famously known for its border city Ciudad Juárez. The entire state is largely associated with drugs, gambling, alcohol, and prostitution. Major Chihuahuan landmarks include the Chihuahuan Desert and Copper Canyon, between which the city of Chihuahua (and Vistas del Cerro Grande) is located. (Herzog, 1999)

The aerial view of the city of Chihuahua is identical to most US-México border region cities: large-scale horizontal sprawl (Herzog, 1999). Similar in size to Austin, Texas or San Francisco, California, Chihuahua's population is over 800,000 and covers a much greater surface area. Vistas del Cerro

### Locating the Project Site in México ▼

*Vistas del Cerro Grande is located in the US-México border region in the state of Chihuahua.*

*Figure 1.2 // (modified from Google Earth Pro; Ewald, 2013)*



► State of Chihuahua



► City of Chihuahua







Grande is at the southern edge of the city and is a neglected low-income neighborhood, blocked from view of the city by a *sierra*, or mountain in English (Montemayor, personal communication, 2012).

The neighborhood called Vistas del Cerro Grande was recently established in 2004 on the margins of Chihuahua's city center. Although this community is relatively young, both the physical and social characteristics of the site are in decline. Immediately visible is the lack of infrastructure, which is mostly non-existent. Only one road is paved (the street *Nueva España*, or New Spain) and what little pedestrian lighting exists does not function properly. In addition the site is profusely littered with debris and other signs of vandalism. (Espacio Colectivo, 2012)

The social conditions of Vistas del Cerro Grande correlate directly with the neighborhood's physical and economic demerits. Most residents stay indoors during the day and especially during the night, when crime activity is perceived to be highest. There are a number of abandoned households and vacant lots, which affirm the region's neglected and forgotten identity. Overall the neighborhood residents are highly dissatisfied with the physical and social characteristics in this low income, informal urban area. (Espacio Colectivo, 2012)

Despite Vistas del Cerro Grande's impoverished form, the region is currently a target of political investment. Recent improvement projects in the neighborhood include a new community center, gymnasium, and pool. The community is grateful for these new developments, and is eager to continue making progress towards a better quality of life for all residents (Espacio Colectivo, 2012). For these reasons LaBOR Studio, an architectural and landscape architectural design firm located in Chihuahua, México, was hired

### Site Location ◀

Google Earth image of Vistas del Cerro Grande, Chihuahua, México. The street corridor *Nueva España* is the focus of the LaBOR studio project.

Figure 1.3 // (modified from Google Earth Pro; Ewald, 2012)

“The relentless pressures of global competition are squeezing out care, the invisible heart of human development.”

(UNDP, 1999, p. 7)



NOT TO SCALE



**Market Vendors Receive Half of the Income Required for Monthly Expenses ▲**

Every Sunday the main street, Nueva España (or *calle principal*) transforms into a lively street market, or *tianguis*.

Figure 1.4 // (Espacio Colectivo, 2012)

to generate design concepts specifically for the central street corridor, Nueva España.

Design priorities for *Nueva España* must address crime and insecurity in addition to the infrastructural downfalls occurring along the corridor and in adjacent community areas. Beyond these items, design programming and community activities will be important for activating lifeless public spaces. This is particularly important for the current residents, as well as generations to come (see Figure 1.4).

My research focuses specifically on adolescents living in Vistas del Cerro Grande, as children in the larger city of Chihuahua are historically the subject of neglect. For example, over the past decade more than 10,000 boys and girls became orphans in the city (Quintana, 2011). Beyond internal family life, children are exposed to a milieu of violence, crime, gangs, and poverty in their

communities and the larger socio-economic context. These conditions are not favorable for child development, as Dr. Marie Leiner (from the American Academy of Pediatrics, AAP) demonstrated in a recent study which revealed that children exposed to collective violence (as a result of organized crime and poverty) are much more susceptible to mental health issues, such as psychological and behavioral problems (AAP, 2012).

In the neighborhood Vistas del Cerro Grande, children under 11 years of age compose 31.9 percent of the community, and young adults between 12 and 24 represent 22.5 percent for a combined total of 54.4 percent; which equates to approximately 1,900 adolescents living in this neighborhood (see Figure 1.5). The young people typically gather in the streets and parks, whereas the adults and seniors often stay indoors. Community leaders advocating for positive changes believe that new public spaces should be designed primarily for children and young people, but should also lure adults and seniors outdoors. (Espacio Colectivo, 2012)

This contextual information is furnished by Espacio Colectivo, which is a group LaBOR Studio contracted to conduct research and record findings in Vistas del Cerro Grande. The research group conducted interviews, distributed surveys, and engaged residents in participatory community meetings (see data and information collected in Appendix B). The qualitatively-rich data collected by Espacio Colectivo will be especially useful in crafting evidence-based design strategies helps focus the project research and objectives. The information from Espacio Colectivo will be further discussed in the Methodology section.

## Project Objectives and Personal Goals

The project objectives and personal goals construct a framework for the report and ground my larger intentions in purpose. These larger-picture goals kept me on task and expanded the relevancy of my project.

### Project Objectives

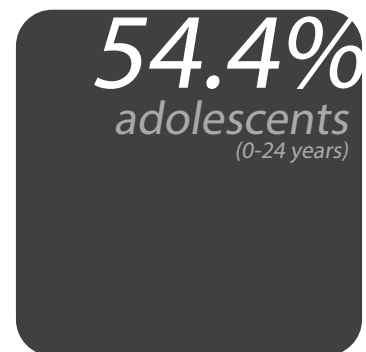
- Provide viable solutions, in the form of public space amenities and site

### Adolescents Under 24 Represent a Majority of the Neighborhood Population



The population distribution for Vistas del Cerro Grande parallels many cities in other developing countries.

Figure 1.5 // (developed from Espacio Colectivo, 2012; Ewald 2013)



programming strategies, founded on evidence-based design principles

- Present a culturally sensitive and contextually appropriate document which accurately portrays the story of Vistas del Cerro Grande
- Present an implementable set of guidelines for the Vistas del Cerro Grande community, as well as the Chihuahuan planning institute, which ultimately fosters sustainable design initiatives
- Bolster the children's quality of life living in this region of the city of Chihuahua, and also for other neighborhood residents (see Figure 1.6)
- Prolong current investments occurring in Vistas del Cerro Grande while cultivating new projects and opportunities for growth (see Figure 1.7)

#### Personal Goals

- Learn about a culture unlike my own, via observation, ethnographic fieldnotes, and artifact analysis during travel to México City, México, thus developing a deeper appreciation for unfamiliar people and places
- Develop a basis for a future career in public-interest design by cultivating an emotional connection to a developing country (a low-income, informal neighborhood in particular)
- Mature professionally, emotionally and spiritually through the project process, specifically by becoming intimately familiar with another culture, and understanding idiosyncrasies through new perspectives

### Project Specifics

#### Dilemma

Like their counterparts in other developing and developed countries, the children and adolescents living in Vistas del Cerro Grande, Chihuahua also gather in the streets and in public parks (Espacio Colectivo, 2012). This is not surprising, as research affirms that “children tend to prefer the spontaneous [play] opportunities offered on the streets, sidewalks, alleyways and vacant lots” (Bartlett, 1999, p. 68). Urban environments, such as those listed above, are particularly stimulating for adolescents (in terms of noises, social contact,

motion, visual diversity, and complexity), thus creating high potential for learning and development (Bartlett, 1999 & Wohlwill & Heft, 1987).

#### Research Question

How can sustainable amenities be integrated in public spaces to enhance childhood development in poor areas of Chihuahua, México?

#### Research Proposition

This question will be answered using research from project literature and multiple precedent studies in mostly Latin and South America. Particularly important to substantiating the claims in this report is a deeper understanding of developmental theory as it relates to socio-economically disadvantaged children. A social artifact analysis consisting of surveys, interviews, and meetings with Vistas del Cerro Grande residents is layered with data from an auto-ethnographic video study with fifth and sixth grade students speaking to the qualities of the existing public spaces in their neighborhood. Although this method is not entirely appropriate for a comprehensive cultural understanding of the community, this procedure yielded the best possible results in the limited time frame. Research objectives and procedures will be further discussed in the Methodology section.

Specific variables studied include characteristics of the setting and place, the general atmosphere of the community and its people, the pedestrian activity occurring along street corridors and in adjacent public spaces, and the reactions, emotions, feelings, and attitudes of local residents. Overarching themes and repeated concerns were identified across the datasets, distilling multi-dimensional problems into a manageable list of landscape architectural design and urban planning challenges. This report ultimately provides viable solutions in the form of a public space typology, which is founded on evidence-based design and tailored to support children's basic needs.





**Neighborhood Children Feel Safer in Outdoor Spaces during the Day ▲**

Children play on a new playground at the recently built community center in Vistas del Cerro Grande. Parks and playgrounds are located in the neighborhood, but most do not provide any relief from the hot sun.

Figure 1.6 // (Espacio Colectivo, 2012)



**Existing Infrastructure Conditions Require Immediate Attention ▲**

*The majority of the streets in Vistas del Cerro Grande are not paved, and there are many vacant lots and abandoned buildings. The gymnasium, a recent government-funded project, is pictured in the background (at right).*

Figure 1.7 // (Espacio Colectivo, 2012)



PROJE

# CT BASIS

Introduction to Literature  
and Precedents

A Brief Background to Mexican  
Architecture and  
Urban Landscapes

*La Frontera:* Architecture and  
Urban Landscapes in the  
US-Mexico Border Region

Developmental Psychology

Environmental Design Strategies for  
Public Safety and Wellness

## Introduction to Literature and Precedents

The project literature covers a wide variety of topics, which provides important background knowledge on Central and Latin American urban slums, Mexican history and culture, developmental psychology theories, and research methodologies in anthropology. The basis of this report sits at the intersection of landscape architecture, planning, urban design, cultural anthropology, and childhood development psychology and sociology. Each is important to this report and helps shape a comprehensive and thorough framework for the public space typology in Vistas del Cerro Grande.

The report literature was expanded and narrowed throughout the duration of the project, representing an ebb and flow of relevant information. Literature describing key global and site-specific driving forces is at the cornerstone of my project definition, dilemma, and research question. Information specific to México history and architecture, as well as the larger Central American region, is the basis of my understanding of larger cultural patterns, terminology, and idiosyncrasies. Research on childhood development and secure environmental design practices is directed to meet the specific needs of the community in Vistas del Cerro Grande, as identified in surveys, interviews, community meetings, and the auto-ethnographic video study with students.

### Global Driving Forces

The issues primarily driving urban decline, such as globalization and rapid urbanization, are thoroughly documented and discussed among politicians, stakeholders, and other interested professionals. The literature utilized in the production of this report forms a comprehensive set of background information and specific issues deeply rooted in Global South cities.

Of particular note, *The Ghetto* is a collection of essays that paint a picture of the term “ghetto,” looking specifically at the spatial qualities and social and economic characteristics of these places globally. Ghettos are no longer just an area of racial segregation (as the term was historically used to define Jewish areas in townships), but represent a larger economic and social divide in urban

settings (Hutchison & Haynes, 2012). Although these urban forms appear disorganized they are socially complex organisms and a new urbanism form that cannot be neglected.

In order to move urbanism concepts forward in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we must reconsider urban “problems” as unrealized “opportunities,” continuing to challenge former positions and setting progressive initiatives in motion. Latin American case studies are especially useful for realizing public space objectives in Vistas del Cerro Grande and become models for design strategies. Elizabeth Smith provides practical solutions for implementing new urban strategies in developing countries, desperately in need of strategic combatives for globalization and rapid urbanization. This international design initiative, titled “Design with the Other 90%,” primarily seeks to use design as a mechanism for a more just and humane urban world (Smith, 2011). This report is largely born out of the ideas behind this movement, creating equitable planning and design projects and policies for all socio-economic statuses.

*Design with the Other 90%: Cities* is essentially an archive of innovative projects in developing regions. The range of ideas discussed in this book (some realized and some still in conceptual phases) illustrate cost-effective means for creating access to basic services such as food, water, shelter, health, education, and energy. This report emulates the character of these projects while further responding to the visible and invisible qualities of Chihuahua, addressing the specifics that make this Mexican city unlike any other urban center.

The following quote from Smith is a mantra for my report, and creates a larger framework for the relevance of my studies in urban design:

*“We will need to create new systems adapted to local cultures and places for sharing successful models like these; for scaling up for wider implementation; for helping local authorities improve infrastructure; for redefining what constitutes a sustainable, inclusive, competitive world-class city; for preparing for increased climate volatility; and for developing a knowledge web for urban infrastructure.”*  
(Smith, 2011)





**Widespread, Dense Settlements in México City  
Illustrate the Disparity Between Rich and Poor ▲**  
*Low-income housing projects climb the sierras just outside  
the downtown boundary.*





### Site-Specific Driving Forces

Extreme conditions of poverty proliferates violence in México and across the Latin American landscape (see Figure 2.1). In his article titled "Twin War," researcher Victor M. Quintana paints a statistically graphic image of all the types of violence occurring in Chihuahua, which include criminal violence, government violence, economic violence, and social violence (Quintana, 2011).

Of particular concern in México, as well as other developing countries in Latin America, is the presence and activities of youth gangs, which account for an overwhelming percentage of violence in several underdeveloped cities (Rodgers, 1999, p. 1). In northern Mexican cities and border regions like Chihuahua, youth gangs are typically an "export" of American cultures, adopting "behavioral patterns [such as] graffiti tagging, gang warfare, drive-by shootings, and crack cocaine consumption" (Rodgers, 1999, p. 11). These social settings breed undesirable social and economic situations for children, who might be orphaned and displaced at a young age, experience unsafe situations daily, and find little to no job security as they mature, resulting in "full-time criminality" (Quintana, 2011 & Rodgers, 1999, p. 4). For these reasons, the World Bank asserts that design development and programming must address surmounting violence prior to design and implementation. The state of Chihuahua is no exception to violence, where a child's likelihood of becoming a homicide victim is five times the national Mexican average (Quintana, 2011).

Dr. Carreón's philosophical dissertation titled *Street Working Girls in México City* is a solid example for theoretical pieces of this report. Written as a one-year ethnographic study, Carreón develops thorough sets of observations on the lives of young, street-working girls in México City, detailing daily challenges and the adaptations these children make in response to internally and externally imposed environmental forces.

As discussed above, violence is a recurring theme in Latin American countries. Mexican street children too are subjected to unfavorable settings.



Street children especially “fear brutality from adults;” particularly from law enforcement officials and business owners who view children negatively. This fear is justified as approximately 1,400 violent child deaths (specifically adolescents working and living in the streets) occurred in Brazilian cities between 1987 and 1990 (reported by Stuart, 1999 in Carreón, 2006, p. 30). This lack of security is negatively compensated by exposure to urban pollutants, such as noise, air pollution, poor hygiene, disease, and infections.

Children living and working in the midst of poverty spend less time in school, as they prefer working with their families in the street to being bullied and humiliated by classmates at school (Carreón, 2006, p. 30). Streets in poor urban neighborhoods must be developed as safe refuges and psychologically stimulating spaces.

## A Brief Background to Mexican Architecture and Urban Landscapes

Public spaces in México (streets, plazas, parks, squares, promenades) are historically the center of the city socially and economically, similar to the role of the "Central Business District" (or "CBD") in American cities. Unfortunately most Mexican public spaces today are characterized with crime, fear, fragmentation, insecurity, and are generally poorly maintained environments (Bonilla, 2012). Privatized spaces in México such as shopping malls and gated communities are inspired by the country's northern neighbor, the United States. The construction of privatized spaces further separates the minority, wealthy population from the larger, poor population in Mexican city centers (Bonilla, 2012). In México and in other developing countries around the world, a decline in public spaces is synonymous with a decline in "public life, in which public space has become, 'empty space, a space of abstract freedom but no enduring human connection'" (Sennett, 1994, p. 375, as quoted by Bonilla, 2012, p. 66).

As Mexican public spaces are historically relevant to cities and communities, streets, plazas, parks, squares, and promenades support an impressive array



of activities. For example, civic spaces can cater to health and well-being, learning and education, and the exchange of information and goods. Most basically, public spaces are ideal locations for social interaction. Despite decline public spaces in Latin American and Caribbean cities continue to be central for daily life and recreation, and are arguably more socially, culturally, and economically valuable than privatized public spaces (see Figure 2.2).

(Bonilla, 2012)

For example consider México City's new revitalized center, the Zocalo and Madero Street. Prior to revitalization México City's historic center was practically abandoned; there was limited housing available, and the public spaces were inundated with illegal activity. México City's revitalized city center promotes tourism and supports local vendors. The large public space reconstruction spurred additional development projects, including housing, offices, restaurants, and hotels, and helped increase property values.

(Bonilla, 2012)

Politicians, designers, and planners can, and must, continue to address the quality of urban public spaces in México, as more than 75 percent of the

**Chapultepec Park, the Largest Park in México City, Attracts Millions of Visitors Daily ▲**

*Contemporary urban public spaces are key for socially, culturally, and economically viable cities.*

*Figure 2.2 // (Ewald, 2013)*

Mexican population is living in city centers. Further, newly revitalized public spaces must respond to the needs of diverse user groups and provide equal opportunities for rich, poor, young, and old. (Bonilla, 2012)

There are three important phases of Mexican architecture and urban landscape design that are directly responsible for the forms and functions of contemporary urban public spaces (Herzog, 1999). Each era captures motifs from the preceding chapter, reiterating the central components in the design of outdoor spaces and structures. The design of future public spaces must acknowledge these rich, historical sections and emulate relevant civic functions. The three eras of design are associated with transitions in society, culture, and geography, and must all be considered in the typology recommendation for Vistas del Cerro Grande. These three eras are as follows: indigenous architecture, colonial architecture, and twentieth century architecture (Herzog, 1999).

#### Indigenous Architecture

Pre-colonial architectural and urban design was informed by the culture and societal beliefs of the indigenous people. This is directly reflected in the physical characteristics and use of buildings and streets, and in the larger organization of Mexican cities. Most apparent is the direct connection between the social structure and the monumental scale of sacred, indigenous monuments, which were built to massive and gigantic scales to “instill fear and obedience in the masses” (Herzog, 1999, p. 21). These monuments were centrally located in city plans with low-lying residential homes radiating outward, also articulating the strict hierarchical order of society (see Figure 2.3). Residential homes were small in total square footage and modestly designed with adobe mud, straw, and clays. (Herzog, 1999)

Although public spaces in Vistas del Cerro Grande do not need to embody the socially hierarchical aspects of pre-colonial urban design, there are other important features to borrow from the ceremonial landscapes. For example, Toltec architecture is spatially open and highly exposed to natural elements which allowed users to connect directly with the outdoor environment;



### Colonial Settlers Replaced the Former Indigenous Civilization and City of Teotihuacan ◀

The plan to the left illustrates the former Toltec civilization that occupied the area that is México City today.

Figure 2.3 // (from Kagan & Marias, 2000: *La gran ciudad de Temixtitlan* (Tenochtitlan, 1524). Woodcut. From *Praeclara Fernandi de Nova Maris Oceani Hispania Narratio* (Nuremberg, 1524). The Newberry Library, Chicago.)

“enhancing nature, light, and sunshine” (Herzog, 1999, p. 24). The horizontal scale also lends itself to pedestrian circulation, and successfully defines spaces with platforms, stairs, pedestals, and walls (see Figure 2.4). Incorporating indigenous cultural values in public spaces bridges the current divide between Toltec descendants and the larger population of México, the former of which are often labeled as social outcasts (Herzog, 1999 and Garcia, personal communication, 2013).

### Colonial Architecture

The beginning of the colonial architecture period in México marks the arrival of European explorers and the establishment of new city centers. Although the



### The Largest Structures at Teotihuacan Reinforce Indigenous Social Hierarchy ◀

The vast open spaces in archeological sites demonstrate the Toltec connection to nature.

Figure 2.4 // (Ewald, 2013)



history of urban form in Latin and South American cities is difficult to trace, there are key influences that historians believe guided settlement patterns. This includes exposure to pre-Columbian civilizations, Roman-imperialism, Renaissance and Ideal City theories, and Spanish developments built during the Reconquista (Lejeune, 2005).

Similar to their indigenous predecessors the Columbian settlers were keen on oversized public spaces, leaving “the buildings as foreground to gigantic nature” (Lejeune, 2005, p. 37). A large, central *zocalo*, or square was the city’s primary monument, a feature partly inspired by Greek and Roman civilizations (see Figure 2.5). The most important buildings were located on the edges of the square, such as the church and governmental buildings, for which the highest quality of architecture was reserved. From this center-point a rectangular grid was composed with excessively large blocks (as seen in Figure 2.6), a launching point for the “horizontally-lacking” skylines that characterize Mexican cities today: wide streets and endless horizontal cover (Lejeune, 2005, p. 37). (Herzog, 1999)

The social hierarchy embedded in indigenous architecture is not as discernible in colonial architecture, but the tone remains nonetheless. For example, the nature of dominating urban spaces discussed evolved to favor ornate public buildings, which harshly contrast the horizontally empty, plinth-like *zocalo* (Lejeune, 2005). Merely locating the most important institutions at the edges of the square further emphasized the centrality of Spanish rule in the new world colonies (Herzog, 1999).

**The Zocalo Marks the Colonial and Indigenous Center of México City ►**

*The main square in México City is used throughout the year for a variety of exhibitions. The Templo Mayor is also located here, the former center of the Toltec civilization (upper right corner of image).*

Figure 2.5 // (image from Google Earth Pro, 2013)

Overtime Latin and South American cities accrued diverse collections of European architectural styles from countries like England, France, and Germany (see Figure 2.7). These imports included building and urban features alike: diagonal, grid-breaking streets, the appearance of vegetation and monuments in public corridors and spaces, and Renaissance, Baroque, and Neoclassical forms and facades. One French-inspired feature in particular, the *paseo* (or boulevard in English), was so widely implemented in Central America that the corridor type became an equally-recognized Hispanic







### **Excessively Large City Blocks Characterize Mexican Colonial Settlements ►**

The central city square is a focal point of colonial developments, modeled after Greek and Roman city designs.

Figure 2.6 // (from Kagan & Marias, 2000: Anon. *Defense of La Paz* (1781). Oil on canvas. Casa de Murillo, La Paz.)



trademark (Lejenune, 2005). *Paseos* are long, shaded corridors which usually slice through the gridiron urban layout at a diagonal, becoming an active urban destination for pedestrians and an ideal location for offices and businesses.

Although the period of colonial architecture in México can be associated with growth, this was also the advent of poorer people groups shifting to the margins of the city centers; hence the formation of shanty towns and low-income neighborhoods like Vistas del Cerro Grande. Mexican downtowns transformed into financial and commercial districts as the wealthy migrated outside of city centers, leading to the development of *barrios marginales*, or the slums.

### **20<sup>th</sup> Century Architecture and Las Colonias**

Architecture and urban design in 20<sup>th</sup> century México marks a departure from “stuffy” European exports and an architectural rebirth in city centers (Herzog, 1999, p. 33). Colonial architecture inspired by English, French, and German models was reclaimed and edited to embody simple, Le Corbusier-inspired



**Colonial Architecture was Modeled after European Buildings, Resulting in a Wide Assortment of Styles ◀**

The Palacio de Bellas Artes, built in 1910, is currently sinking. The lake that previously surrounded México City was drained in the early 1900s; as a result the geologic structure is extremely poor.

Figure 2.7 // (flickr user angrywhitekid, 2007)

ideals immediately following the Mexican Revolution and independence from Spain. For example the Paseo de la Reforma in México City, originally designed after the French Champs-Élysées, was transformed into a Latino version with monuments, wide walkways, and elegant landscaping features (see Figure 2.8). José Vasconcelos, the Secretary of Education from 1921 to 1924, lead a campaign to paint political murals on the walls of México City's civic buildings, further injecting Latino spirit into European designs (Herzog, 1999).

As mentioned before México City is a perfect example of urban primacy, which is characteristic of many developing countries. This means that México City sets the architectural design standard for other cities in México (Herzog, 1999). Between 1940 and 1960 México City underwent an intensive period of growth, development, and investment from internal and external players, catapulting the downtown population from 1.7 million to 5.4 million (Eggenger, 2005, p. 225). The city continues to grow at this rapid pace today, resulting in extreme levels of poverty on the urban fringes. Urban poverty is the subject of a 1950s controversial film entitled *Los Olvidados*, or *The*





**The Paseo de la Reforma is the Center of Economic Activity in México City ▲**

Although the Paseo de la Reforma was inspired by the French Champs-Élysées, the amenities are specific to Latino values.

Figure 2.8 // (flickr user Robert Blackie, 2010)

*Forgotten Ones*, which depicted adolescent street life in México City. The film preceded the development of a large public housing project between 1962 and 1964 called the Nonalco-Tlatelolco complex, which had a reported density of 505 people per acre. Nonalco-Tlatelolco was the site of large-scale urban violence between the public and the government years later. People living in the *barrios marginales*, like the civilizations before them, are truly “the forgotten ones,” and are still ignored by elected officials today (Eggener, 2005 and Gutierrez, personal communication, 2013).

In the article “Settings for History and Oblivion in Modern México 1942-1958,” author Keith L. Eggener pauses to reflect on the condition of modern day México City and its development. He mentions, with uncertainty, that he is unsure how different today’s México City really is from the colonial version of the city in the early 1900s. Has much changed? And perhaps more pressing, “are we to see this process [of change] as one of continuity or one of rupture?” (Eggener, 2005, p. 229). My host and tour guide in México City had similar sentiments; he believes that Mexican history continues to repeat itself. Modern architecture is not the root of problems in México, but urban design is also not the vehicle of hope and optimism that it once was in colonial times (Eggener, 2005). One has to ask – can urban design truly make a difference in the lives of socially, economically, and culturally dejected populations today?

### **La Frontera: Architecture and Urban Landscapes in the US-México Border Region**

The city of Chihuahua is located in the state of Chihuahua, which is a major state in the US-México border-region. The border region has an especially unique economic and cultural climate, as Chihuahua is a direct consumer of American exports (for example, manufactured goods and media outputs) (Aguirre, Montemayor & Seañez-Quevedo, 2012). However the border-region is also known globally for drug-related violence and political corruption. The city of Chihuahua is currently under a federal travel warning, which is taken directly from the U.S. Department of State below:

**Chihuahua: Ciudad Juarez and Chihuahua City are major cities/travel destinations in Chihuahua [...]:** *You should defer non-essential travel to the state of Chihuahua. The situation in the state of Chihuahua, specifically Ciudad Juarez and Chihuahua City, is of special concern. The Mexican government reports that 1,933 people were killed in Ciudad Juarez in 2011, down from 3,100 in 2010. Although there has been a further decline in homicides in 2012, Ciudad Juarez still has one of the highest homicide rates in México. Chihuahua City has seen an increase in violent crime in previous years. From the United States, other areas in the state of Chihuahua are often*

*reached through the Columbus, NM, and the Fabens and Fort Hancock, TX, ports-of-entry which also experience high levels of violence. In these areas, U.S. citizens have been victims of narcotics-related violence. There have been incidents of narcotics-related violence in the vicinity of the Copper Canyon in Chihuahua. (US Department of State, 2012)*

The *frontera* is comprised of six Mexican states and four US states. The border region is especially unique because it is a trans-cultural urban landscape, representing a fusion of US and Mexican social and cultural values (Herzog, 1999). As mentioned before the idiosyncrasies inherent to the Mexican border region are an important consideration for this report and ongoing efforts with Vistas del Cerro Grande.

## Developmental Psychology

### Understanding Children's Basic Needs

This report is specifically tailored to child development in Vistas del Cerro Grande and other poor areas of Chihuahua, México. Children, like adults, have a wide variety of needs and desires that might be at least partially satisfied via thoughtful public space design.

Raffi Cavoukian, an advocate for child-friendly environments, believes that honoring children is one of the most important principles to remember while designing [public spaces], regardless of their specificity to children. Children have high intellectual and creative capacities, and require adequate nourishment, health, and safety precautions. Designers must meet these standards, or as Raffi describes, we must "respect" the needs of children. Raffi goes on to say that children who are honored and respected are more likely to transition positively into secondary education and adulthood. (OWP/P Architects, VS Furniture, & Bruce Mau Design, 2010)

Safety is a fundamental need for children; without adequate safety precautions "self-actualization" cannot occur. Self-actualization is when children fill out their characters, personalities, hopes, and dreams. Self-actualization and is at the top of Abraham Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, a ladder-based

diagram that depicts the succession of human needs (see Figure 2.9). The Hierarchy of Needs is invaluable for designing environments that children will occupy, especially as public spaces offer an excess of important sensory stimulation for child development. To capitalize the potential embedded in urban environments the public spaces in Vistas del Cerro Grande must first meet preliminary physical and environmental safety requirements. (OWP/P Architects, VS Furniture, & Bruce Mau Design, 2010, p. 34)

### The Role of Environment in Childhood Development

In Dr. Carreón's dissertation (discussed in the previous section), the extensive literature review includes a detailed discussion of a hybrid ecological model of human development, originally generated by Urie Brofenbrenner and geared specifically towards child ecology (by the authors Masten and Garmezy in "Risk, vulnerability, and protective factors in developmental psychology"). Although Carreón is specifically interested in the adaptive resilience of young street working girls in México, the framework he utilizes is important for evaluating precedent studies. He describes four levels of environment that contribute to a child's ecology, using these tiers to frame his philosophical interpretations: 1) the child him- or herself; 2) the family; 3) the community; and 4) the larger social context (Carreón, 2006).

Dr. Carreón's references to "Toward an Experimental Ecology of Human Development" reinforce the universal qualities of Brofenbrenner's ideas, which are also a part of my research framework. Brofenbrenner's article illustrates gaps in theory concerning human development and natural surroundings. He argues strongly for direct observation of subjects within spaces, and also for examination of the contextual environment beyond the "immediate situation[s] containing the subject" (Brofenbrenner, 1977, p. 514). This idea alone guides the evaluation of the precedent studies and auto-ethnographic footage, both of which are further discussed in the Methodology section.

Brofenbrenner also establishes a set of terms and definitions corresponding to ecological development and the ecology of human development which are important to layer with other cognitive development theories for the design

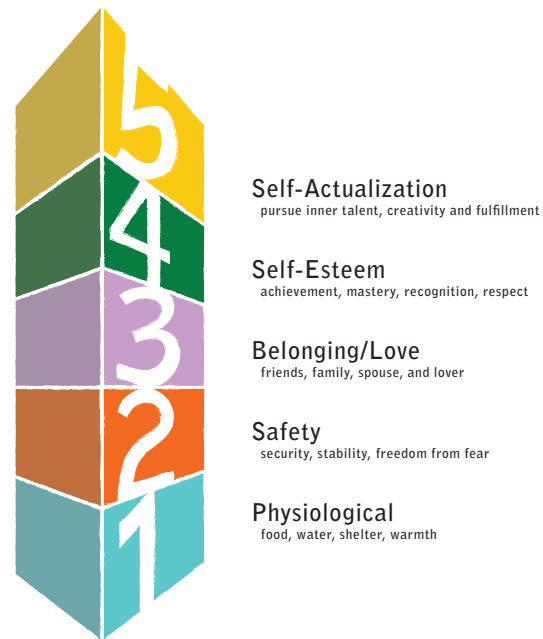


of public spaces in Chihuahua. Using pre-established terminology helped determine the degree to which each precedent study was supporting or inhibiting child development; and also allowed for comparisons across

**Prior to Achieving Self-Actualization, Public Spaces Must First Meet Environmental Security Standards ►**

Abraham Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs is used as a framework for precedent evaluation in the Design Typology section.

Figure 2.9 // (modified from OWP/P Architects, VS Furniture, & Bruce Mau Design, 2010; Ewald, 2013)



design precedents.

Also in "Toward an Experimental Ecology of Human Development," Brofenbrenner suggests the importance of change over time in child development:

*"A fruitful context for developmental research is provided by the ecological transitions that periodically occur in a person's life. These transitions include changes in role and setting as a junction of the person's maturation or of events in the life cycle of others responsible for his or her care and development. [...] These transitions are not limited to the early years but recur, in various forms, throughout the life of a person. Hence, the ecology of human development must incorporate a life-span perspective if it is to do justice to the phenomena within its purview." (Brofenbrenner, 1977, p. 523)*

Similar to Bronfenbrenner, the main concepts presented in *Growing Up Global* revolve around transitions from adolescence to adulthood. The Panel on Transitions to Adulthood in Developing Countries and the National Research Council identify five critical adult roles children are preparing for during development: an adult worker, a citizen and community participant, a spouse, a parent, and a household manager (Lloyd, 2005). In addition, a checklist is provided for assessing whether a transition to adulthood is successful:

- “Good mental and physical health, including reproductive health, and the knowledge and means to sustain health during adulthood;
- An appropriate stock of human and social capital to be a productive adult member of society;
- The acquisition of pro-social values and the ability to contribute to the collective well-being as citizen and community participant;
- Adequate preparation for the assumption of adult social roles and obligations, including the roles of spouse or partner, parent, and household and family manager;
- The capability to make choices through the acquisition of a sense of self and a sense of personal competence; and
- A sense of well being” (Lloyd, 2005, pp. 3-4).

Bronfenbrenner’s theories and classifications from *Growing Up Global* were especially useful for the development of this report, in addition to Lev Vygotsky’s theories on cognitive development. In *Mind in Society*, Vygotsky describes the fluid interchange of learning styles children use while trying to accomplish a given task, involving words, visuals, and kinetic actions. While Bronfenbrenner views the environment as stimulus, Vygotsky believes that children utilize tools within their surroundings to solve problems and plan future events (Vygotsky, 1978).

The theories discussed above are summarized in Figure 2.10, which correlates directly with the identified objectives for childhood development in the

Methodology section. The most important “take-away” applicable to this report is the definition of a micro-system and its components, as micro-systems (as well as meso-, exo-, and macro-systems) are the primary platforms for child development.

Bronfenbrenner defines a micro-system as “a pattern of activities, roles, and interpersonal relations experienced by the developing person in a given setting with particular physical and material characteristics” (Bronfenbrenner, 1979, Loc. 372). Beyond microsystems the field of influence on childhood development processes expands to include meso-systems, exo-systems, and eventually macro-systems, each successively larger in scale. In this report the micro-system refers to home and school environments, the meso-system is the neighborhood, the exo-system is the city of Chihuahua, and the macro-system is the border region and larger Mexican country. The -system definition begins to translate Abraham Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs into tangible components for urban spaces in Vistas del Cerro Grande:

- The **setting**, in its most basic form, covers the fundamentals of public spaces. The foundational elements support basic physiological needs by providing sustenance, or by offering relief from natural elements. The design and spatial layout of a setting minimizes anxiety and fear, creating safe environments. Each microsystem is composed of both physical and social settings.
- The **role** is equivalent to a child’s position within both physical and social settings, and is shaped through relationships with people and places. Role contributes to each user’s sense of place and belonging.
- The **activity**, or spatial programming, engages users in physical and/or mental stimulation. Without activity spaces lack life, energy, and movement. Activity contributes to each user’s sense of place, and allows each individual child to project himself or herself onto his settings. This outward expression expands roles and deepens interpersonal relations, and may result in modifications to the settings.

- Finally, **interpersonal relations** between persons and places form a basis for self-actualization. Dynamic interactions (facilitated by settings, roles, and activities) allow the user to “connect the dots” and find personal fulfillment in the process. By using speech, visuals, and actions each child develops relationships with places of influence.

“Prior to mastering his own behavior, the child begins to master his new surroundings with the help of speech. This produces new relations with the environment in addition to the new organization of the behavior itself.”

*(Vygotsky, 1978, p. 25)*

All of the public spaces in Vistas del Cerro Grande can be designed to support childhood learning, creativity, and transitions into adulthood using the framework described in this section. However public spaces must first be designed for environmental security, which is discussed next.



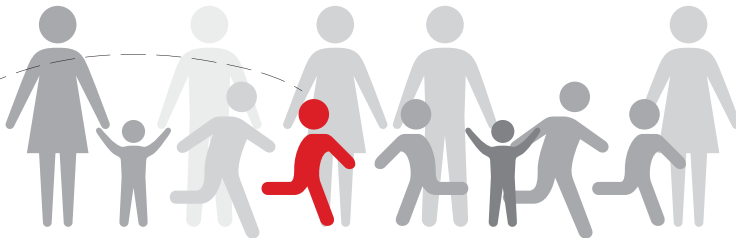
1

each *-system* is composed of *settings*

## PHYSICAL SETTINGS



## SOCIAL SETTINGS



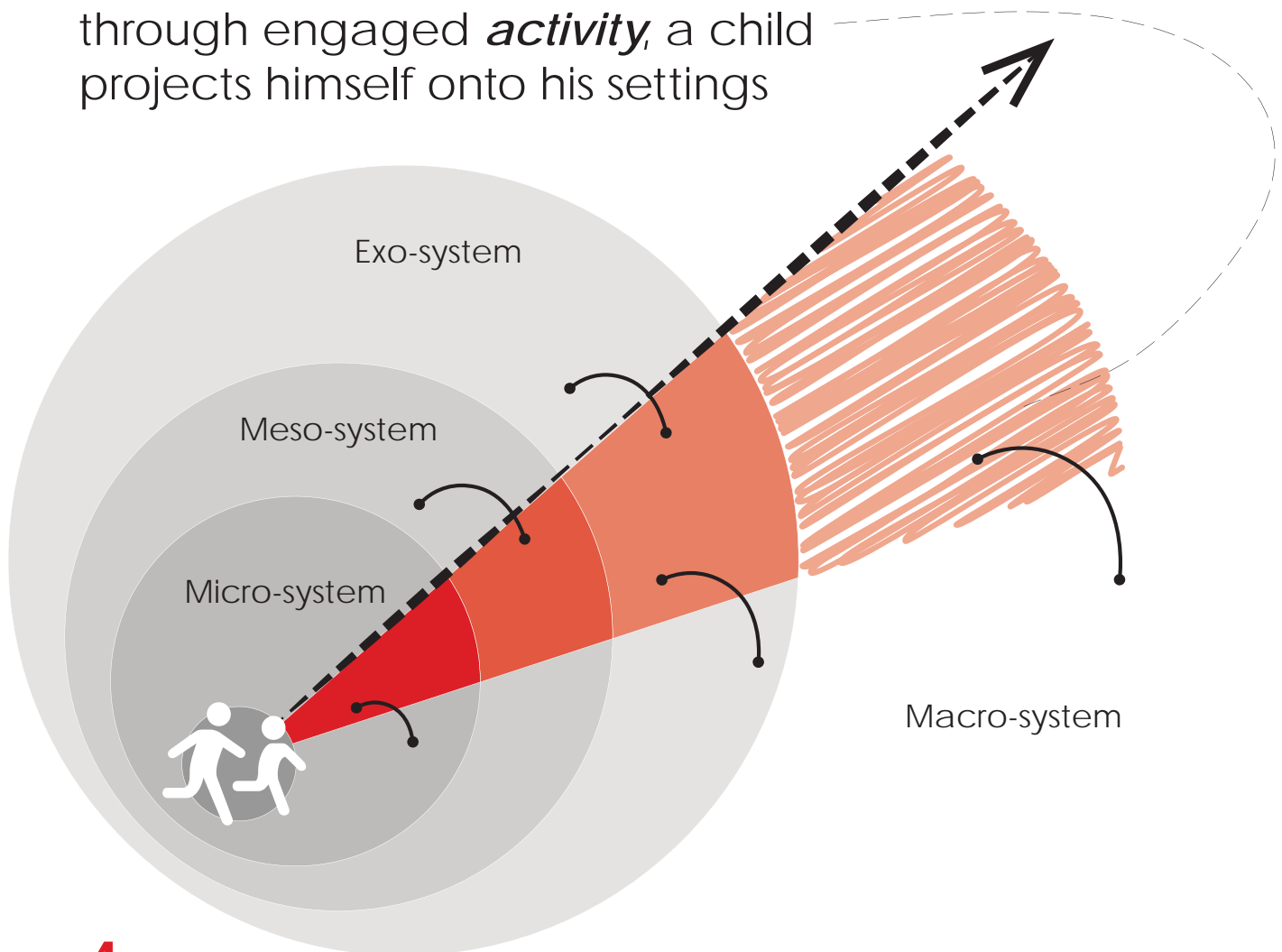
2

a child positions himself in a unique *role* within his settings

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3

through engaged *activity*, a child projects himself onto his settings



4

*interpersonal relations* between the child and the settings are the basis of self actualization (see ↪ symbol above, Maslow)

#### **Micro, Meso, and Exo-Systems are the Primary Arenas for Child Development ▲**

Environments provide tools for problem solving and cognitive development; children reciprocate input by projecting themselves and forming interpersonal relations.

## Environmental Design Strategies for Public Safety and Wellness

As the majority of the population in Vistas del Cerro Grande is under the age of 24, and a number of the housing forms do not adequately meet the physiological needs of all of the residents, the neighborhood is highly suspect to vandalism and crime (Colquhoun, 2004, Espacio Collectivo, 2012). Existing public infrastructure is minimal in Vistas del Cerro Grande, leaving children with few choices for safe, exterior play spaces.

This section of the report will identify a number of valid design principles for creating safer urban environments. These principles are especially useful for designing forms, delineating circulation patterns, and choosing materials for safer public environments; aside from form it is important to remember that increased activity and community surveillance are paramount to sustaining security in low-income urban neighborhoods.

### Design Principles for Secure Public Space:

#### Oscar Newman's Principles for Defensible Space

Oscar Newman, the author of *Defensible Space: Crime Prevention through Urban Design*, describes four major design components as the basis for environmentally safer design: territoriality, surveillance, building image, and the juxtaposition of residential units with other building types (as summarized by Colquhoun, 2004). I will use Newman's principles to formulate and measure the public space design typology for Vistas del Cerro Grande.

The four components of "defensible spaces" are described below:

- **Territoriality** delineates private space from public space. Firm barriers are not always necessary as territoriality can be reinforced by projecting an image of private or semi-private space (see Figure 2.11). The location of access points can also convey territoriality; for example, level changes, steps, and gateways can all be used to reinforce a point of entry, which should be located near building entrances (where possible).
- **Surveillance** is important to safe design, allowing residents, business owners, and consumers to "keep an eye" on activities in adjacent public

spaces. Windows must be positioned to overlook public corridors, courtyards, and streets. Likewise, interior common spaces, stairwells, and fire escapes should be visible from the street.

- **Building image, materiality, and architectural design** are important environmental communication cues. Exterior spatial organization can largely affect visibility and access, and therefore must be carefully utilized while constructing public corridors and spaces.
- Lastly, a **juxtaposition of residential units with other building types** (or mixed use neighborhoods) increase 24-hour activity and surveillance in urban public spaces. A mixture of land uses and building types is a highly effective secure environmental design strategy.

### Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED)

#### Guidelines for Queensland

In addition to Newman's principles for defensible spaces, the guidelines from "Crime Prevention through Environmental Design" for Queensland thoroughly describe tangible design practices that can be directly applied to public spaces in Vistas del Cerro Grande. Precedents are evaluated against the criteria outlined in these guidelines, which address surveillance, legibility, territoriality, ownership, management, and vulnerability.

- **Surveillance** is synonymous with activity in public spaces. Greater numbers of pedestrians occupying outdoor urban areas is critical for reducing crime. Urban forms themselves can promote surveillance, which is especially evident in open spaces with expansive viewsheds. Activities programmed into the public realm increase the number of pedestrians using urban spaces and therefore enhance presence and natural surveillance. Building masses should be used strategically to define outdoor spaces and allow urban residents to oversee activity. A mixture of land uses and building functions, such as commercial restaurants and retail stores, business offices, civic institutions, and mixed-use housing units attract diverse crowds for long periods of time



during the day and night. A mixture of uses such necessitates pedestrian circulation between spaces, further increasing direct and indirect surveillance. The design of public spaces should ultimately support community and individual uses; adequately providing for these needs will increase site usage, activity, and overall security.

- **Legibility** is achieved through clear circulation routes and effective way-finding devices. Visibility and clarity are central to legibility, making public urban spaces quickly understandable to pedestrians and allowing for adequate decision-making (see Figure 2.12). This is largely achieved through sensible spatial organization and site detailing, such as signage. For example, transit pick-up locations should be logically located in visible centers, and natural and manmade features should be utilized and enhanced to create a sense of place. If pedestrians are able to understand public spaces quickly, they are more likely to be confident within their surroundings and continue to spend time outdoors.
- Ownership and privacy are two important concepts that contribute to **territoriality**. Clear, unambiguous boundaries delineate private spaces from public spaces, increasing security in urban zones. Territoriality must be carefully balanced with surveillance, as increased amounts of enclosure limit the vigilance afforded in open spaces. This can be achieved by replacing "formal" boundary devices such as high fences, walls, locking gates, and security personnel with structural and landscape features to delineate boundaries. For example, plantings can be used to enforce a boundary, as well as a change in material or elevation. Low walls may incorporate site amenities such as seating and artwork while also defining areas for passage and movement. Another important consideration is the number of access points provided in public spaces. Too many entrances can create confusion and will not always provide efficient security.
- **Ownership** of public spaces is especially important for maintaining safety in community spaces. If spaces are designed to meet the needs



### **Fences Create Territoriality Without Becoming Firm Barriers ◀**

A fence at Divino Nino Jesus School, Peru is an important security measure but is still an inviting, playful feature.

Figure 2.11 // (Rosell, 2012)



### **Legibility Increases User Comfort in Public Spaces ◀**

The bike lanes in Tercer Milenio Parque, Columbia are clearly defined, mitigating unanticipated security risks.

Figure 2.12 // (flickr user jelirestri, 2012)

and desires of its users, residents will frequently use public spaces and feel a sense belonging, pride, and responsibility, further cultivating sustained site maintenance and security. Urban environmental design should also encourage social interaction, which helps build social capital in urban neighborhoods. Design strategies must celebrate and enrich the diverse cultures inherent in urban communities. Sharing planning and maintenance responsibilities between civic agencies and neighborhood coalitions allows community members to actively participate in decision-making processes, creating a strong sense of community.

- Clean and well-cared-for public spaces demonstrate an urban community's pride and **maintenance** standards. Spaces that are well-maintained send signals to potential security offenders and decrease the likelihood of vandalism and crime. The public realm must be designed carefully to minimize maintenance and vulnerability to damage. Regular maintenance services (such as waste removal, electrical equipment checks, and site amenity upkeep) and "reactive" maintenance systems must be clearly defined to respond quickly to vandalism (The State of Queensland, 2007). Durable materials and damage-resistant finishes can be especially useful for preventing the decline of public spaces.
- The degree of **vulnerability** must be assessed for each public space and addressed appropriately through environmental design and site programming. Isolated or hidden public spaces are much more susceptible to crime than highly active urban centers. Risk of crime and assault can be reduced by using appropriate amounts of light fixtures in public spaces and attracting sufficient amounts of social activity and surveillance. A variety of options or routes for site users can also help mitigate potential security risks. Hidden or concealed places with limited options and surveillance should be avoided.





MET

# METHODOLOGY

Introduction to Methodology  
Methodology Implementation  
Findings  
Conclusions and Applications

## Introduction to Methodology

### Qualitative Research and Phenomenology

My report is grounded in theoretical understanding, research in education, secure environmental design, and Mexican architecture, and a review of urban design precedents. I developed an introductory understanding of contextual issues in Vistas del Cerro Grande through survey and interview responses, which identified critical themes for further literature review. In addition, an auto-ethnographic study utilizing video as a tool became another important layer of qualitative analysis. The video production allowed young children to vocalize their opinions, needs, and desires for the neighborhood's public spaces.

My research is largely qualitative, as time, communication and geographic constraints did not allow for thorough quantitative data collection and analysis. The quality of research is largely defined by the term phenomenology, which is defined as “the interpretive study of human experience with the goal to study and elucidate human situations, events, meanings, and experience as they occur” (quote from von Eckartsberg, 1998, in Kopec et al, 2012). Phenomenology is a vehicle for understanding cultures in the Global South, and specifically every-day social dynamics embedded in urban shantytowns. As quoted in *Evidence Based Design*, phenomenology has “the ability to explore the interconnection between the meaning of space and objects within the cultural context by allowing language to be the vehicle of information gathering” (Kopec et al, 2012). I will use phenomenology to understand the complex relationship between culture and emerging urban spatial forms in Vistas del Cerro Grande, Chihuahua, and the larger country of México.

### Research Objectives

- Identify common thematic concerns about public spaces in Vistas del Cerro Grande, using data collected from surveys, interviews, and the auto-ethnographic video study
- Identify a feasible design typology and form guidelines for public spaces in Vistas del Cerro Grande using evidence-based design; referencing

precedent studies and using childhood developmental theories to evaluate the effectiveness of design forms and functions

- Compile a supporting audio-video dataset from fifth and sixth grade students in Vistas del Cerro Grande; celebrating youth participation and innovation
- Investigate idiosyncrasies in the artifacts by cross-referencing resources and obtaining verbal confirmation from Chihuahuan natives and México City residents
- Distill the data objectively, in such a way that "real needs" can be discerned from "felt needs;" ultimately identify the core issues that limit childhood development in community spaces in Vistas del Cerro Grande (Werner, 1993, p. w8)

#### Selected Research Methodologies: Artifact Analyses, Historical and Contemporary Precedent Studies, and Auto-Ethnography (via Video)

The bulk of existing data informing my masters' project is outsourced from LaBOR Studio and Espacio Colectivo. Espacio Colectivo, which is a research group consultant to LaBOR, conducted interviews, distributed surveys, and held participatory community meetings in 2012. The statistical social data is especially useful for crafting an evidence-based design typology, further focusing the project research and objectives. Linking Espacio Colectivo data with a geospatial analysis allows a socio-ecological synthesis to occur and cultivates a deeper understanding of cultural circumstances in Vistas del Cerro Grande.

The historical and contemporary design precedent studies are mostly located in México and the larger Latin American region. Researching the history of Mexican architecture and studying the prevailing, successful forms of public spaces was important for generating contextually appropriate recommendations for Vistas del Cerro Grande. Both historical and contemporary precedents are foundational to the public space typology outlined in the next section. Precedents were selected for distinctive,



individual features and the contribution of each space to the complete definition of the type and typology. Each precedent study addresses the physical, environmental, and cultural findings from the artifact analyses and alludes to appropriate recommendations for both the project neighborhood and other similar Mexican shantytowns.

The auto-ethnographic study was conducted using video as a tool. Data collected from fifth and sixth grade students in Vistas del Cerro Grande is supplementary to the other qualitative research methodologies. Since I was not able to visit the state of Chihuahua, video footage recorded by the students themselves allowed the researcher to be indirectly immersed in the students' activities and lifestyles. I essentially joined the students on a virtual, narrated tour of the neighborhood.

In March I traveled to México City, México to visit shantytown communities that share commonalities with Vistas del Cerro Grande. I wrote journal entries, took photographs, and video-recorded my experiences while exploring the city and similar neighborhoods. I observed a range of people and public spaces. The findings from this trip are highlighted in Appendix B, as the trip happened at later in the semester and could not be fully incorporated into the body of the report. Nonetheless my experience in México City adds a new level of understanding and sensitivity to the proposed design typology for Vistas del Cerro Grande and was indispensable for achieving my personal goals.

#### *Artifact Analysis*

As LaBOR's involvement with Vistas del Cerro Grande paralleled the proposal writing phase of this report, I had access to various artifacts that increased my understanding of the neighborhood. The artifacts provided by LaBOR Studio and Espacio Colectivo (a research consultant to LaBOR Studio) included site imagery, PowerPoint presentations to their client (the planning institute of Chihuahua), and data collected in surveys, interviews, and community meetings.

Nueva España, like any other complex urban setting, is a collection of social, economic, political, and cultural inputs. Each of these layers is examined individually and compared against other layers of information to identify overlaps and relationships. The artifacts and the data collected from the auto-ethnographic study are cross-referenced to identify themes; these themes pinpoint and prioritize urgent dilemmas in Vistas del Cerro Grande.

The findings from the precedent studies and auto-ethnographic study, as well as indirect field observations in México City, México, are secondary to the existing information about the site. The precedent studies respond to Vistas del Cerro Grande residents' needs as identified by Espacio Colectivo. The precedents are still of value as they provide inspirational concepts for community spaces and site programming.

#### Historical and Contemporary Precedent Studies

The historical and contemporary design precedents, particularly in México and Latin America, represent successful models for future development in Vistas del Cerro Grande. The bulk of precedents included in this report fit into one of the identified public space types for Vistas del Cerro Grande, and are included in the Design Typology section.

To allow for easy comparisons across research methodologies the themes identified in the auto-ethnographic study inform the selection of historical and contemporary design precedents. Specific variables for selecting the design precedents include:

- Descriptive, qualitative characteristics of the setting and place, as well as unique site qualifiers;
- General atmosphere of the community and its people, as well as socio-economic conditions and other relevant demographics;
- Pedestrian activity and programming occurring on-site;
- Project design objectives, how these goals were achieved, and impressions about the post-occupancy performance of the design (as a gauge for project success)

Each typology requires multiple precedents to fulfill the design criteria outlined in the Project Basis section, as there is no singular precedent that can be directly translated to Vistas del Cerro Grande. The community has distinct cultural, social, and economic idiosyncrasies that necessitate contextually-appropriate recommendations. For example, the street corridor Nueva España may adopt principles from incrementally designed streetscapes in San Francisco, California *and* new, socially-inclusive infrastructural corridors in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, among other design precedents.

#### Auto-Ethnography Video Documentation

Using auto-ethnographic video documentation as a research methodology increased my understanding of Vistas del Cerro Grande and the city of Chihuahua. Observation is the best means for understanding cultures that are "experienced and [best] understood in the everyday lives of the people who 'live them out'" (Crang and Cook, 2007, p. 2). Video data collected from fifth and sixth grade students in Vistas del Cerro Grande was supplementary to the other qualitative research methodologies. The students worked in groups of three to complete the research study tasks. There were ten groups total, and each group received one camcorder. Using a map of the neighborhood the students followed a pre-determined route and stopped at designated locations to record their thoughts about the streets, public spaces, buildings, people, and environment, specific to each location (see route map, Figure 3.1).

#### **Auto-Ethnographic Route Instructed Students to Record Thoughts at Designated Neighborhood Locations ►**

*Using the map provided student groups answered questions pertaining to public space in Vistas del Cerro Grande.*

*Figure 3.1 // (modified from Google Earth Pro; Ewald, 2012)*

Instructions and the route map were provided to each student (see Appendix B). Students recorded during a 90-minute in-class session. If the students had questions, the teacher and investigator were available to provide help as needed with equipment and address other questions or concerns. After completing data collection the video footage and consent forms were shipped from Chihuahua to Manhattan, Kansas. With assistance from a translator, the video footage was reviewed at full-speed and translated to English. During the second review common themes were identified between the videos and the artifacts from Espacio Colectivo.

As a source of qualitative data, video documentation from the auto-



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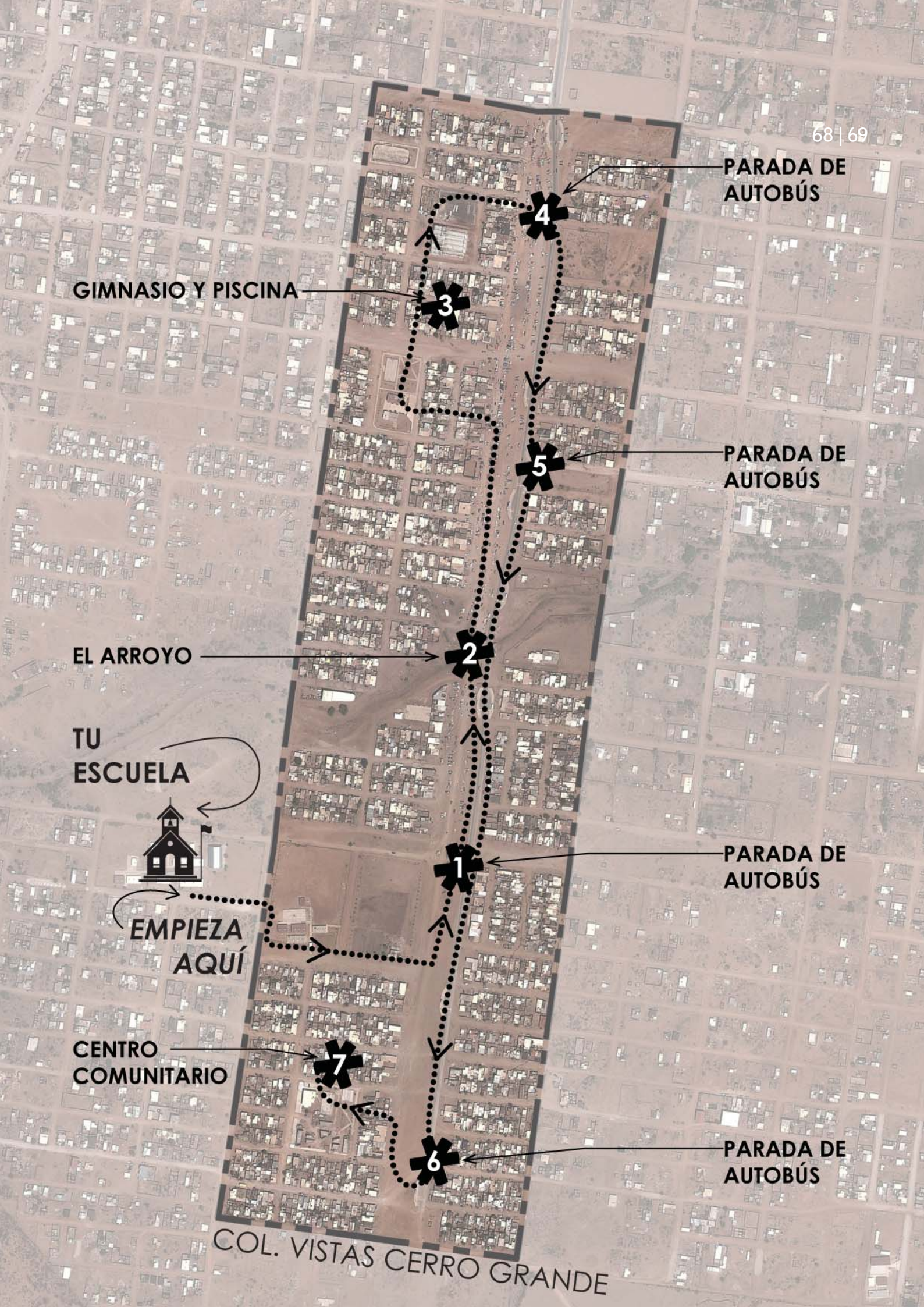
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ethnographic study provides invaluable insight for the recommendations in the Design Typology section, becoming part of a compelling narrative and basis for evidence-based design. Geospatial, social, and economic data was useful for creating the public space design types but a deeper understanding of culture in Vistas del Cerro Grande notably extended the research efforts.

## Methodology Implementation

### Artifact Analysis

Artifact analysis is an important piece of the methodology, particularly because of my unfamiliarity with the project site and Mexican culture. I was fortunate to have contacts at LaBOR Studio in Chihuahua, who furnished a research report on the neighborhood of Vistas del Cerro Grande. The report was created by Espacio Colectivo, a research consultant group to LaBOR. The document is an executive summary of the social and community data collected during interviews, surveys, and neighborhood meetings. The information is rich and foundational to the evidence-based design typology presented later in this report. Layering the social and cultural data from Espacio Colectivo with the findings from the auto-ethnographic study (discussed later in this section) leads to a particularly thorough, although remote understanding of the project site and larger region.

Other artifacts useful to this report include information from LaBOR such as digital presentations, site imagery, and geospatial information resources. The primary source for GIS data in México is called the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI), an online data portal with limited output capabilities. Google Earth Pro was especially valuable for acquiring high resolution aerial site photography. This set of artifacts positions the report as a supplementary piece to LaBOR Studio's ongoing initiatives in Vistas del Cerro Grande. The artifact collection grounds the report in real-time community input and opinions, garnering a persuasive case for ongoing governmental support through the Chihuahuan Planning Institute.

Prior to analyzing the executive summary from Espacio Colectivo, the text

first needed to be translated into English. This task was completed by the researcher with assistance from Spanish-speaking colleagues. From here I identified major concerns and themes iterated in the report, carefully discerning “real needs” from “felt needs.” This concept from *Where There is No Doctor* by David Werner facilitates objective data distillation, directing energy towards the core issues that limit childhood development in community spaces in Vistas del Cerro Grande. Instead of responding to recurring neighborhood symptoms of decline, the design of public spaces must pinpoint deeper-rooted causes and offer sustainable, long-term remediation (results that can be recreated over and over again without external intervention). “Felt needs” may be more readily visible to community members and the outsider, but the “real needs” are less perceivable issues; without correction these issues will continually undermine the success and overall development of Vistas del Cerro Grande.

The artifact analysis procedure is highly susceptible to bias which is eliminated by cross-referencing the thematic findings from the artifacts with the findings from the auto-ethnographic study. The findings echo the tone in Espacio Colectivo’s executive summary, presenting the collected data objectively. The conclusions and recommendations from the historical and contemporary design precedents are translated objectively into the recommendations for Vistas del Cerro Grande; ensuring viable applications appropriate to the community context.

#### Historical and Contemporary Precedent Studies

By definition a precedent is an example or instance used to justify later, similar occurrences; such the design precedents discussed in the Design Typology section are merely “starting points” for neighborhood space design in Vistas del Cerro Grande. Compiling the precedents afforded widespread exposure to diverse design ideas both conceptualized and realized in similar regions and urban cities, including projects in México. This broad review enables careful idea selection and appropriate incorporations specific to the Chihuahuan site.

The precedents are chiefly selected in response to the dilemmas and

opportunities identified by the residents in the artifacts and auto-ethnographic study, as summarized in the next section on the Findings. Historical and contemporary precedents are equally important, as the classical designs of Latin and Central American cities contribute proven spatial organization strategies for modern design challenges. Precedents serving similar low-income communities are also important references for future development in Vistas del Cerro Grande. As a set the precedents guide recommendations for the community that are contextually appropriate and culturally acute.

The framework for precedent evaluation is based on the developmental literature discussed in the Project Basis section. Each precedent is first evaluated as a *microsystem* (or set of microsystems) considering the capacity for/or performance of the setting, role, activity, and interpersonal relations. The ability of each precedent to meet the successive needs identified in Abraham Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs is further analyzed, to ensure environmentally inclusive design principles become the basis for public space in Vistas del Cerro Grande. For example, safety is paramount in urban settings and permits children to reclaim outdoor play spaces unsafe characters such as gangsters and criminals. The final evaluation determines each precedent's ability to provide opportunities for cognitive development and learning processes, as described in the theories of Lev Vygotsky.

Selecting the precedents for the design types is almost an unavoidably subjective process. Although the objectives identified from the social data (Espacio Colectivo information and the auto-ethnographic study) are the basis for precedent selection, my personal preferences quickly slip into the process. Prior to evaluation each precedent is distilled down to its most basic functions, in some cases considering function entirely separate from form. Although design forms can be inspirational the developmental details are objectively assessed: for example, the aesthetics of a fence may not greatly affect the amount of safety that the fence provides, but the most applicable solution for Vistas del Cerro Grande may be a semi-transparent barrier that prevents physical access in some locations and provokes continuous social activity.

### Auto-Ethnography (Using Video as a Tool)

The auto-ethnographic study was particularly important to this report because I was not able to travel to Vistas del Cerro Grande due to the Department of State issued travel warning for the state of Chihuahua. In my place I sent 10 flip cameras to a personal friend and unaffiliated investigator, who wished to remain anonymous. We contacted the school principals and scheduled the study in early January. The investigator and teachers instructed 43 fifth and sixth grade students to follow the route provided and answer the questions at the indicated locations. Each team of four to six students recorded the entire sequence on flip cameras (see Figure 3.2 and Appendix B). To incentivize active participation two of the cameras were raffled off at the end of the activity. The youth participants essentially provided ten unique virtual tours of their neighborhood, responding to discussion prompts and sharing other insights about the existing public spaces (or lack there of).

Although travel to Chihuahua would be the most ideal for experiencing the site and understanding the culture of Vistas del Cerro Grande, the qualities of the video auto-ethnographic study are also a valuable means for collecting sensitive social data. For example, the auto-quality of the study is drastically different from a formally structured interview, taking a significant amount of pressure off of the students who may attempt to “say the right thing” when questioned by adults (Clark, 1999). Clark’s experiences and additional studies demonstrates how self-guided interview processes encourage children to volunteer greater amounts of information and more personal opinions.

After the video material returned to the United States, a colleague and myself translated the material from Spanish to English. This process was incredibly messy because the data collection was not regulated. The videos required a second objective review, allowing the spoken and unspoken needs identified by the children to arise separate from my preconceptions. Direct quotes justify precedent selection for each of the public space types. “Real needs” are again separated from “felt needs,” as described in the section on artifact analysis. To further eliminate bias and error all video footage has equal weight in the precedent development.



Travel to Chihuahua and Vistas del Cerro Grande is irreplaceable in understanding, and for crafting contextually appropriate design recommendations. Since the opportunity was not available I instead traveled to México City in March to better understand the social, economic, and cultural circumstances revolving around Mexican urban cities. My experiences abroad are documented in Appendix B, as time did not allow for immediate inclusion in this section of the report. My impressions are embedded in previous introductory sections, and subtly influence the design typology and precedents presented in the next section.

## Findings

### Artifact Analysis

The artifact analysis allowed for a better understanding of the current issues in Vistas del Cerro Grande, and the eventual identification of targets for the design typology recommendations (discussed in this section's conclusions). The artifact analysis also identified the public spaces in Vistas del Cerro Grande requiring repairs, which is not attainable from an aerial analysis on Google Earth.

The most important component of the artifact analysis was the executive summary on Vistas del Cerro Grande from Espacio Colectivo. This document illustrates a bit of the neighborhood's history shared in the Introduction section, particularly the Project Background. Although the community was established just eight years ago the physical demerits are immediately observable. The unpaved and uneven streets are frequently mentioned, as well as inadequate pedestrian amenities. Public space amenities include vegetation, lighting, signage, site furniture, and basic sidewalk infrastructure. Community members do not feel secure in their public environments which are only frequented by children (if used at all). (Espacio Colectivo, 2012)

Community surveillance is largely non-existent and most structures contain some sort of vandalism. There are many abandoned structures and vacant lots which criminals use for hiding places. Many community members are victims



A



B



C



D



E



F



G



H



I

### **Informal Auto-Ethnographic Study Encourages Student Participation via Video ▲**

*The nature of the auto-ethnographic study elicits honest and open responses.*

Figure 3.2 A—I // (various sources, 2013)

of robberies, assaults, and in some extreme cases murder and rape. Overall the community is largely dissatisfied with the quality of their community although somewhat optimistic about recent public works projects. (Espacio Colectivo, 2012)

The physiological conditions of the neighborhood are substandard, but 93% of the residents believe that “keeping care of the public spaces is a shared responsibility for both the government and the residents” (Espacio Colectivo, 2012). This sentiment is shared by the students who participated in the auto-ethnographic study, which is discussed later in this section. Therefore participatory community planning processes must be prioritized in the future, beginning in schematic design phases.

Other artifacts include a digital presentation from LaBOR Studio to the Chihuahuan planning institute and digital photographs of the neighborhood. Early discussions with LaBOR Studio architects guided the construction and relevancy of this report. Google Earth Pro aerial imagery was used for base maps for the auto-ethnographic study and diagrammatic maps. Specific concerns mentioned in the executive research summary were tied to places using the site photos and aerial imagery, pinpointing the four public space types described in the next section on the Design Typology for Vistas del Cerro Grande.

#### *Strengths and Limitations of Artifact Analysis*

The artifacts paint a detailed picture of the community and shape the community-driven objectives. Data included in the Espacio Colectivo summary is foundational to the evidence-based design typology. The time available to collect data was extremely narrow, which the summary helped expedite. The other artifacts further deepened my understanding of the issues plaguing progress in Vistas del Cerro Grande.

The artifacts are not entirely objective in nature, which may be a limitation in the analysis. The executive summary reports statistical data from the surveys but is also infused with opinions, perhaps from interviews and the report

authors (although this is not verified). Detailed social information may also benefit the report outcomes and allow for more cross-references between data sources.

### Historical and Contemporary Precedent Studies

The precedents operate as a set of inspirational ideas for future public space design in Vistas del Cerro Grande in response to the data collected in the artifact analysis and auto-ethnographic study. Although each precedent may not individually meet all of the physiological, safety, and developmental requirements on Maslow's ladder of needs, combining appropriate elements from various design precedents could achieve similar results.

The precedent studies (presented in the Design Typology section) are mostly descriptive, including a bit of analysis relative to Maslow and Brofenbrenner's developmental psychology theories. Each public space type operates as a set of potentially viable recommendations for Vistas del Cerro Grande; each precedent with its own strengths and weaknesses. The strengths of one precedent complement the others' weaknesses to craft a holistic collection of Latino-inspired design ideas.

Many of the precedents included in the report cater to the principles of this project while satisfying the unmet needs of "the other 90 percent" (Smith, 2011). Several of the examples are also located in low-income neighborhoods and are designed to improve basic qualities of life. Others amplify the project scope to encompass social, economic, and environmental design initiatives, an important application for Vistas del Cerro Grande. A handful of precedents involve participatory design processes and truly allow the community to impact the final resolutions and acquire ownership. Each project is contextually appropriate and culturally acute, which is an important cue for implementation in Vistas del Cerro Grande.

### Strengths and Limitations of Precedent Studies

The precedents form a wide representation of design examples from Central and Latin America for Vistas del Cerro Grande. This brief survey sheds



light on a few projects specifically for underserved populations in similar circumstances. Some precedents are also a testament to collaborative community-oriented processes. Although some features may be important to translate into applications for Vistas del Cerro Grande the core principles, at minimum, must be echoed in public space type recommendations in order to meet physiological, safety, and development requirements.

The greatest challenge involved in this portion of the methodology was selecting the precedents. There is a considerable amount of pressure to pick the most appropriate palette of design solutions for Vistas del Cerro Grande, a community I am only remotely familiar with. Not to mention my existing repertoire of Central and Latin American precedents is limited, which required a considerable amount of investigative digging. I was not able to locate projects specific to the US-México border region, leaving many unaddressed (yet highly pertinent) subtleties.

I also needed to eliminate personal preferences and biases out of the precedent selection process. I constantly referred to the themes outlined from the social artifacts, checking to make sure each example addressed the report objectives. The “right answer” was not always immediately apparent; for example some projects built in low-income neighborhoods may be socially unsustainable ideas, wiping out large slum areas for wealthy development projects.

#### *Auto-Ethnography (Using Video as a Tool)*

Similar to the artifact analysis the results from the auto-ethnographic study captured the appropriate solutions for the adolescents living in Vistas del Cerro Grande. There are multiple layers embedded in the video data, each important to my understanding of existing conditions and eventual recommendations for public spaces.

The first layer is obvious as it includes what the children are directly stating. Overall the children are highly dissatisfied with the physical conditions of their community. The majority of the streets are not paved which leads to highly eroded, uneven dirt streets that are not conducive to safe pedestrian

passage. The one street that is paved, Nueva España, has two-lanes of high-speed traffic which the students believe creates dangers for children playing in the streets. Other comments include the lack of trash receptacles which could mitigate careless waste disposal in the public realm.

Of highest concern is the students' sense of insecurity in public spaces, paths, portals, edges, and corridors. Although the community center and gymnasium are new developments the children have mixed feelings about the level of safety in the adjacent public spaces. The students continually refer to the gangsters who put graffiti on the walls, the houses, the busses, and every other available surface. The children cannot rely on the infrequent presence of the city police who, when available, do not always provide adequate security enforcement. If the children are spending time outside they are typically with others, whether that be family members, parents, or friends.

The second layer of data collected from the auto-ethnographic study includes the themes that are indirectly gathered from student responses. This also includes the participants' general attitude observed in the video footage. A majority of students in the study convey a collective sense of community responsibility for cleaning up debris and maintaining a baseline of care for the natural environment, an unexpected finding. Yes the students discuss the obscene amounts of waste, but they also communicate desire to help resolve the current issues, which should be capitalized in future implementation projects (see Figure 3.3).

Assessing the sense of social capital in Vistas del Cerro Grande is not as readily observable in the video footage, although some individual statements help form a loose judgment. For example, one group of sixth grade girls agreed that they feel safer in the community with their parents than with their friends (one student specifically stating, "I usually come up here with my friends, but you have to watch the friends you come up here with. You can't depend on everybody."). Another social complexity involves minorities living in the community such as the Rarámuri, an indigenous people group (Garcia, 2013). A handful of the students direct derogatory comments towards indigenous

people waiting at the bus stops, implying current tension between different cultures.

#### Strengths and Limitations of Auto-Ethnography

As mentioned before the auto-ethnographic study was especially useful to this report as it provided evidence for the design typology when personal travel was prohibited. The nature of the video study allowed students to freely share honest opinions, thoughts, and concerns, which are not easily provoked in formal interview settings. Further video files are easily reviewed as many times as necessary.

A major limitation is the inability of the researcher to ask follow-up questions and gain deeper understandings. The students did not always adhere to the questions in the packet or fully answer some of the questions. The route was determined before the unaffiliated researcher visited the site and required some minor modifications upon arrival. Safety was also a challenge, which was achieved by the presence of two teachers and the investigator in addition to the large group of 43 student participants. Without a basic level of security the school principal might have prohibited the activity altogether.

### Conclusions and Applications

The methodologies culminate in the development of the next section on the Design Typology for Vistas del Cerro Grande. Each of these public space types was selected according to the data analyzed in the artifacts and auto-ethnographic study video footage, and are as follows:

- *Calle Principal* (or Main Street)
- *Camino Peatonal* (or Pedestrian Access Way)
- *Plaza Mayor* (or Central Square)
- *Terreno Baldio* (or Vacant Lot)

Although the methodologies lend to a thorough, one-year report, the continuation of this project requires a deeper cultural immersion and richer understanding of daily life in Vistas del Cerro Grande. Informed, public spaces

require intensive community input and continuous participation, of which this project only begins to address. Nonetheless the following process from Taking Action: Involving People in Local Heritage Places is critical for framing my evaluation of Vistas del Cerro Grande and the remainder of this report (Johnston and Clarke, 2001 in Low et al, 2005, p. 12):

1. **Understand community aspirations and values:** A personal understanding of the cultural values embedded in Vistas del Cerro Grande is central to the success of this report. What do community members value? The adults? The children? What does the community aspire to be as a whole? What are individual hopes and dreams? Where does the community see itself going in five years, ten years, and beyond?
2. **Find out community needs:** The community needs are not always implicit and are sometimes buried underneath perceptions. As discussed before the “real needs” must be separated from the “felt needs,” which are mere symptoms of deeper-rooted problems (Werner et al, 1993).
3. **Learn about the locality and community:** To make appropriate recommendations for Vistas del Cerro Grande a larger understanding of the country, culture, and US-México border region steers the report. Travel to México City provided an invaluable amount of clarity about the larger social, political, and economic forces at hand.
4. **Share perspectives:** After completing steps one through three, the next best step is to share opinions, strategies, and revelations. Designers are uniquely positioned to offer visionary ideas that, with support and adoption from the communities involved, may foster exceptional outcomes. My perspectives are inseparable from the public space precedents in the next section, but this step is most appropriate after substantial cultural immersion.
5. **Find out about differences and similarities:** Step five mashes the community ideals with the designers’ suggestions in order to find the best, most socially and culturally appropriate solutions.



6. **Ultimately create new solutions that draw upon a larger range of ideas:** A self-explanatory concluding step: everything collected in steps one through five should be funneled into distinct ideas for the community at hand. The typology in the next section offers a range of ideas but does not pinpoint specific solutions (as more community input is required).

Table 3.1 on pp. 82—83 organizes the objectives for Vistas del Cerro Grande according to Brofenbrenner's theory on the ecology of human development.

Objectives are assigned to the settings, roles, activities, and interpersonal relations accordingly, all of which can be achieved by using Maslow's ladder of needs as an additional framework.

**Espacio Público Para Todos:  
A Video Summary of the  
Methodologies Involved  
in this Report ▼**





***Students Move Through the Littered Arroyo, an Unsafe Terreno Baldío (Vacant Lot) ▲***

*Students expressed concerns about the ecological health of the arroyo (or stream bed) during the study.*

*Figure 3.3 // (Teruel, 2013)*

# TYPOLGY OBJECTIVES

---

## 1 // setting

Safe pathways (public streets and pedestrian access ways) restore the connection of Vistas del Cerro Grande to the larger city of Chihuahua, reinforcing its regional relevance while extending future government support and community improvement efforts. Safety also includes a balanced circulation system for vehicle users, bicyclists, public transit, and pedestrians alike, which would allow children to pursue active and healthy lifestyle options.

---

## 2 // role

Safety must be improved in public spaces so children can reclaim outdoor play space from unsafe characters, such as criminals. The community students want the public spaces, programs, and activities to be an example to other neighborhoods.

---

## 3 // activity

Public places must be programmed to provide children in Vistas del Cerro Grande with unique learning and play opportunities. The children are eager to get involved with community clean-up and environmental initiatives, which will foster responsibility and neighborhood pride.

---

## 4 // interpersonal relations

Public spaces in Vistas del Cerro Grande must become places for self-actualization. The children are excited to be a part of the current neighborhood progress with the community center and gymnasium, and are hopeful to develop interpersonal relations with more persons and spaces. Dynamic relationships between the children and community spaces must continue to mature, bringing diverse people

---

### **Public Space Objectives are Organized by Bronfenbrenner's Theory on the Ecology of Human Development ▲**

*Setting, role, activity, and interpersonal relations are tied to student comments from the auto-ethnographic study.*

*Table 3.1 // (developed from Bronfenbrenner, 1977; with screenshots and images from auto-ethnography, 2013; Ewald, 2013)*





"We come and ride our bikes on the streets [...] but the streets are uneven so there may be accidents."

"I'd like to see campaigns happen to clean up this place. We have to start with those guys who draw on the houses."



"We'd like to see people care more about our environment and not throw away so much trash. The planet is our house and we should take care of it."



"The community center is a really fun place, and with time there will be more fun things developing here."

DESIGN



# T Y P O L O G Y

Calle Principal // Main Street

Camino Peatonal // Pedestrian  
Access Way

Plaza Mayor // Square

Terreno Baldio // Vacant Lot





ecobici  
Tus

21



ECOBICI  
SISTEMA DE TRANSPORTE INDIVIDUAL  
CICLOVIA  
BICICLETAS



## DESIGN TYPOLOGY

Well-designed, safe public spaces are a chief priority for development in Vistas del Cerro Grande. By nature humans are both "gregarious" and "convivial" in spirit, meaning we enjoy spending time with other humans (Childs, 2004, p. 3). Public places are prime social meeting places, a mutual ground for humans to interact with one another. Individually we determine our degree of participation in the built environment and attach ourselves to landscapes, buildings, and forms as a means of personal identification (Childs, 2004). Open spaces offer respite from routine places within our micro-systems, becoming essential to our physical and mental health and well-being (Low et al, 2005, p. 17).

The buzzword *sustainability* penetrates 21<sup>st</sup> century thinking and policies. Urban public spaces are exceptional agents for *social sustainability*, and must be carefully planned for the future success of cities. In his 1995 article for *Journal of Cultural Economics*, David Throsby provides the following definition for *social sustainability*:

*"Social sustainability is a subset of cultural sustainability; it includes the maintenance and preservation of social relations and meanings that reinforce cultural systems. Social sustainability specifically refers to maintaining and enhancing the diverse histories, values, and relationships of contemporary populations." (Throsby, 1995 in Low et al, 2005, p. 5)*

The reverence for and maintenance of distinct histories and value systems is inextricably linked to place preservation, another term used by Throsby. Throsby argues that cultures are embedded in physical settings, meaning cultural preservation heavily depends on the continuance of any given place. A *culturally diverse* place meets accommodations for multiple people groups and socio-economic levels, protecting the future of socially vulnerable groups. Public space design is therefore an extremely important vehicle for prolonging social sustainability, place preservation, and cultural diversity. (Throsby, 1995 and Low et al, 2005)



**Vistas del Cerro Grande  
Typology is Defined Using  
Artifact Findings and Aerial  
Observations ►**

*The public space types are uniquely  
address neighborhood physiological  
and safety concerns.*

*Figure 4.1 // (modified from Google  
Earth Pro; Ewald, 2013)*

## Selecting the Design Typologies for Vistas del Cerro Grande

Choosing the appropriate public space types for Vistas del Cerro Grande required a synthesis of both social artifacts and spatial information. As discussed in the Methodology section, input from Espacio Colectivo interviews, surveys, and community meetings, as well as the compilations from the auto-ethnographic study, formed a basis for the typology development. The types are also appropriate to the spatial qualities of the neighborhood, addressing the spatial situations currently perceived as challenges in the community (see Figure 4.1). The four types of public spaces discussed in the typology section are as follows:

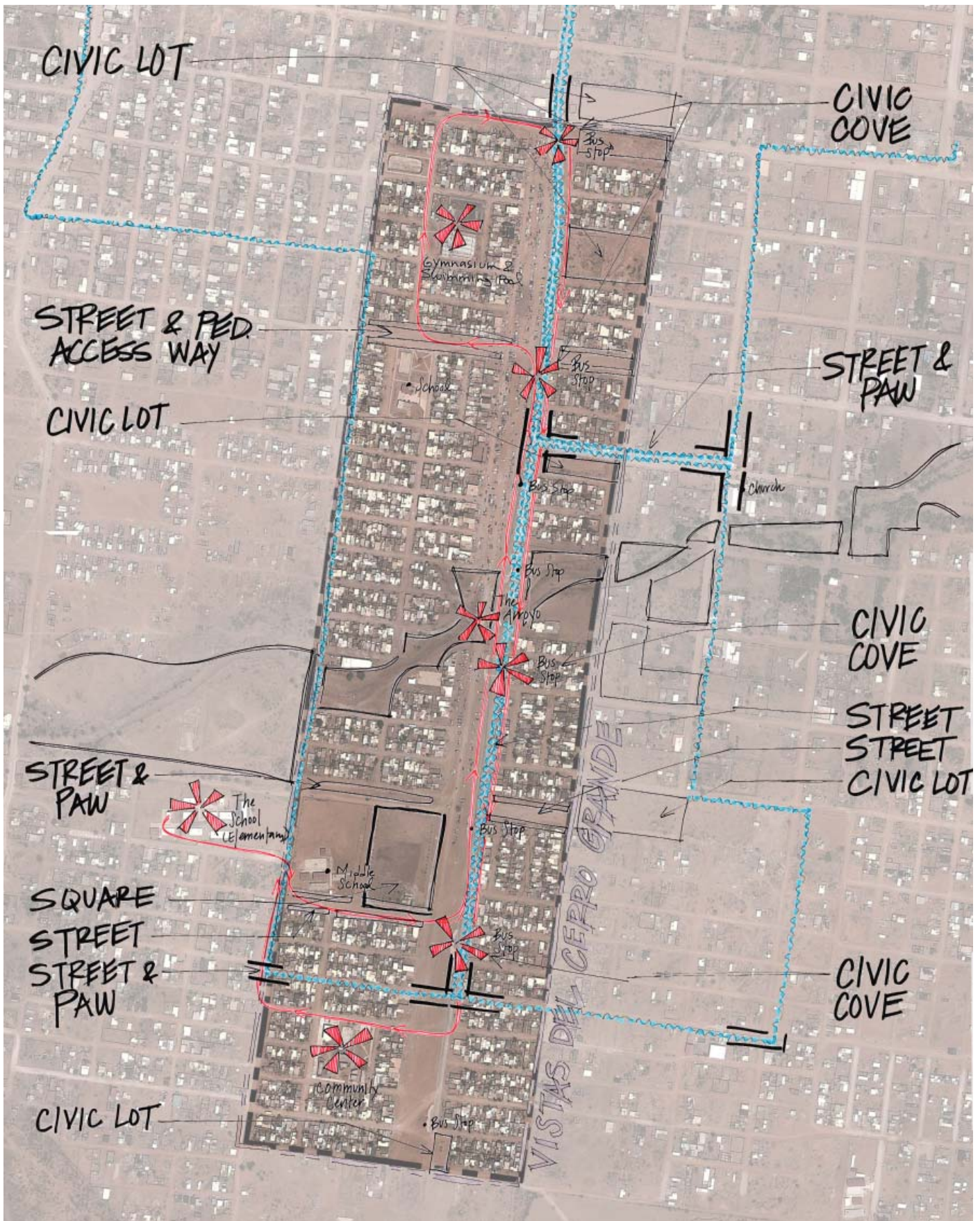
- *Calle Principal* (or Main Street)
- *Camino Peatonal* (or Pedestrian Access Way)
- *Plaza Mayor* (or Central Square)
- *Terreno Baldio* (or Vacant Lot)

The subsequent sections define each of the types and present a palette of Latin and Central American precedents for each public space. The selected precedents target the community values identified from the social artifacts while meeting the physiological, safety, and developmental requirements outlined in Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs. Each precedent includes a written description, images, and is assessed according to these requirements and needs. The precedents for each set are directly transferrable to public space design objectives in Vistas del Cerro Grande.

“Communal open spaces fascinate us because they are where things happen — where new friends and old meet, where one goes to see what’s new, and where personal and communal rituals and celebrations happen.”

*(Wagner et al, 2013, p. 1)*







# CALLE PRINCIPAL //

- Vegetation provides sensory stimulation
- separation between pedestrian & vehicular spaces is clear
- seating amenities facilitate social interaction
- amenities for cyclists
- safe and continuous pedestrian connections provide comfortable and safe experiences on public streets
- street beautification & good design that is culturally & contextually appropriate leads to community responsibility & pride
- moving cars, people, noises, and scents all provide environmental stimulus





# MAIN STREET



**San Francisco Parks to Pavement Program  
Reclaims Excess Traffic Lanes for New  
Pedestrian Urban Spaces ▲**

Figure 4.2 // (modified from flickr user jeremyashaw, 2010;  
Ewald, 2013)



# CALLE PRINCIPAL //

Public corridors are highly relevant to the larger urban fabric and dictate the location and development of other infrastructure projects, buildings and green space. Streets allow for circulation and movement, making the *calle principal* a design staple in developed and developing countries. For children living in low income neighborhoods like Vistas del Cerro Grande the *calle principal* represents an exciting realm for creative and dynamic play.

Historically city streets are an extension of the buildings fronting the thoroughfare. The street space was a front porch for homes and businesses alike, offering a place to sit, converse, and exchange goods. Today most streets are dominated by vehicles, which is potentially hazardous to pedestrians. Urban street scenes are filled with transient strangers that do not necessarily resemble the people living in the neighborhood. Many unfavorable social scenes, such as drug-related



"They have only paved some streets... it isn't just."

A



B



"The cars pass by really fast. I think it is kinda dangerous."

C



D



E

"LIKE I'VE SAID MANY TIMES, I only come here to cross the street with my dad."



F



[main street]

*an urban linear corridor that facilitates pedestrian interaction, communication, and the movement of users, vehicles, and goods; typically fronted by buildings and used as public space*

\*see Image Citations for information on the auto-ethnographic study speech bubbles included in the Methodology and Design Typology sections

### **Dilemmas and Opportunities for the Calle Principal: A Framework for Childhood Development ▼**

Figure 4.3 A—L // (various sources)

#### **PHYSIOLOGICAL REQUIREMENTS**

- Paved roads clearly define pedestrian and vehicular areas, reducing conflicts
- Streets and sidewalks support pedestrian activity such as biking and walking
- Properly paved streets and sidewalks support law enforcement efforts

#### **SAFETY REQUIREMENTS**

- Amenities such as signage and light fixtures promote 24-hour safety on public streets
- Streets designed for social interaction boast higher amounts of activity and surveillance
- Buildings fronting the streets can establish territory but must also provide surveillance

#### **DEVELOPMENTAL REQUIREMENTS**

- Complex environments with sensory stimulation refine mental processes and encourage exploration
- Productive landscapes and public spaces develop curiosity and generate inquisitiveness
- Modifiable environments deepen personal connections and involve active learning



G



H



I



J



K



L



activity, are associated with urban streetscapes. (Celik, Z., D. Favro, et al, 1994)

As mentioned before safety in public spaces is crucial for the children living in Vistas del Cerro Grande. Without adequate security precautions "self-actualization" cannot occur. While the calle principal offers an excess of sensory stimulation for child development, these urban environments must first meet preliminary physical and environmental safety requirements. Thoughtful urban corridor design is central for satisfying children's needs and desires in Vistas del Cerro Grande.

Physiological Requirements



## Physiological Requirements

In *Urban Design: Streets and Square*, author Cliff Moughtin describes a framework for successful public streets that encompasses the physiological requirements for street and infrastructure improvements in Vistas del Cerro Grande. Most obviously the streets must be paved and then designed to support multiple modes of transportation, including pedestrians, cyclists, and vehicles (Moughtin, 2003). Surface treatments or changes in material effectively delineate pedestrian, cyclist, and vehicular zones and thereby reduce the likelihood of road accidents (which are frequently mentioned by the school children in the auto-ethnographic video study).

Second to physical characteristics, the calles principales in Vistas del Cerro Grande must facilitate neighborhood and regional connectivity. Moughtin describes the public street as both "path" and "place" with a beginning and an end. Along the path destinations exist with special uses and activities, but the path itself "must present to the observer a stimulating and memorable image of connected places" (Moughtin, 2003, p. 134). A safe, continuous street network can support some of the basic needs of the children living in Vistas del Cerro Grande while also providing opportunities for greater development and kinetic learning.

Safety Requirements



## Safety Requirements

As mentioned before, crime and violence is at-large in México's urban spaces

“Streets and their sidewalks, the main public spaces of a city, are its most vital organs. Think of a city and what comes to mind? Its streets.”

*(Jane Jacobs as quoted by Moughtin, 2003, p. 130)*

and is one of the primary safety threats for children living in low-income neighborhoods (Bonilla, 2012 and Espacio Colectivo, 2012). There are a number of implementable design features that increase security in urban streets, which Sheridan Bartlett begins to describe below:

*"Well-lit streets and alleyways, places to sit and socialize, the presence of plants and trees, the availability of shops and other facilities can all contribute to the kind of active community presence that makes neighborhoods safer and more lively places" (Bartlett, 1999, p. 71).*

Signage and lighting are extremely effective 24-hour safety features for the calle principal. Other amenities such as seating, trash cans, and vegetation can transform a standard street into a socially desirable space for pedestrian passage and other forms of social interaction. Public awareness campaigns supplement physical amenities and promote on-street surveillance, which reinforces the cultural identity of the calle principal. (Design Out Crime Research Centre, 2013)

Above all viable and active streets are necessary for achieving secure public space design in Vistas del Cerro Grande. Recommendations for public streets should adhere closely to the principles outlined by the State of Queensland for Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (discussed in the Project Basis section). Active and legible streets that are well-managed by city entities

“The good path entices us along with interesting destinations and invites us to linger in inviting places on the way. Successful pathspace enjoys a meaningful purpose in the city path network. It links important places, takes us to significant sites, and may itself be a magnet for urban activity.”

(White, 1999, p. 66)



and community members foster ownership and pride, which decreases insecurities and ultimately makes urban neighborhoods safer.

As we begin looking to public space design precedents we must not forget that many unsafe routes exist in Vistas del Cerro Grande. It is most likely not feasible to improve all of the urban corridors simultaneously. However at least one safer, central route can be initially implemented. The main street corridor Nueva España is the most ideal corridor to begin developing for improved security measures.

## Developmental Requirements

While the calle principal is an important stage for childhood development in Vistas del Cerro Grande, streets have many preliminary, necessary functions. This includes clear and diverse transit operations and the smooth movement of people and goods. Public streets are primarily pathways which connect places; this function cannot be lost amongst overwhelming amounts of purpose-oriented, developmental-focused amenities. Hence the design of public streets must first focus on the lower rungs of Maslow's ladder of needs, chiefly youth physiological and safety requirements.

Fortunately streets in their most basic nature are already highly-sensory environments for children, offering a palette of stimulating people, materials, buildings, noises, and smells (Bartlett, 1999). Streets are full of physical and emotional challenges alike, affording chances for curiosity and discovery. Beyond physical qualities streets are literally “an arena for social expression” (Moughtin, 2003, p. 130). Streets are uniquely positioned to host child expression self-actualization, provided the urban corridor first meets a child's essential needs.





## *Una Cancha Muchas Canchas*

Guatemala City, Guatemala



### **Futsal Courts Encourage Movement and Play ▲**

A low-income area in Guatemala City was rejuvenated with a basic coat of colored paint and new courts for futsal games.

Figure 4.4 // (Buró de Intervenciones Publicas, 2011)

## Una Cancha Muchas Canchas

Guatemala City, Guatemala

Una Cancha Muchas Canchas is a project that addresses a need for more public space and recreational infrastructure in low-income neighborhoods of Guatemala City, Guatemala. The solution was a collaboration between Stefan Benchoam and Christian Ochaita, and resulted in the installation of several informal futsal fields. Futsal is a popular sport in urban areas as it is similar to soccer but does not require a grass field. The courts were strategically located on low-traffic streets using fluorescent ground paint and moveable goal posts (see Figure 4.4). Oncoming traffic is notified with speed bumps (on either end of the field) and signage. The larger network of futsal courts is intended to provide recreational outlets for community children, and increase public presence and safety on city streets (see Figure 4.5). (Buró de Intervenciones Publicas, 2011)

As the futsal courts are sited on the street itself the recreational activity is highly visible to surrounding businesses and homes. The open-air street environment permits vigilance and surveillance (see Figure 4.6). Although building structure and facade improvement are not a core initiative of this project, a series of internal and external "face lifts" may prove beneficial as part of larger urban revitalization efforts. Building improvements may increase the social value of these places and simultaneously boost the economic value.

The futsal courts are located on urban streets with an existing mixture of land uses and are therefore open and accessible to the public. As the futsal field installations will increase activity and use, the locations will likely attract more businesses and homeowners. Future court locations should be sited strategically in mixed-use areas.

Una Cancha Muchas Canchas is an effective model for future development in low-income neighborhoods of Guatemala City. Increasing the day-time activity in existing corridors is innovative, and a cost-effective solution for addressing public safety. The futsal courts appear to span all





### **Amenities Increase Safety along Public Streets ▼**

*Lighting, benches, and trash cans increase community pride and responsibility, leading to more activity along the street and therefore a more secure public space.*

Figure 4.5 // (Buró de Intervenciones Publicas, 2011)

available traffic lanes; lane widths may be limiting for standard court sizes, but providing a single lane for vehicles may prove to be beneficial in future applications. Additional programming and partnerships could also spark greater urban revitalization efforts in these communities.

The futsal programming piece is central to Una Cancha Muchas Canchas and is important for childhood development. The public street design encourages movement, play, and social interaction, all of which are important for engaging youth and increasing learning opportunities. The courts are engaging, inclusive spaces that community youth identify with, increasing neighborhood pride and a sense of belonging.



*"They should make a park or some sort of court here. All we ask is that you pave the streets."*




**Adjacent Buildings Provide  
Natural Surveillance on the  
Calle Principal ▼**

Figure 4.6 // (Buró de Intervenciones  
Publicas, 2011)

*"We don't like the futbol field  
at the school, but we do  
like the basketball court."*







ESPACIO PÚBLICO PARA TODOS | *Calle Principal*

## *Rio Cidade Projeto*

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

### Rio Cidade Projeto

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

The Rio Cidade program was an important component of the 1993 Strategic Plan for Brazil, which was intended to elevate the economic status and global image of Brazil. The Rio Cidade program was specific to the city of Rio de Janeiro and restored good urban design to numerous commercial centers and streetscapes. The ultimate goal of the project was to create better shopping-oriented zones and safe, livable public spaces and public streets (see Figure 4.7). (del Rio, 2004)



Of the 41 Rio Cidade project sites there are varying degrees of success. The initiative receives a good amount of criticism and praise from design professionals and the community. Most importantly, Rio Cidade increased city officials' awareness of public space design and the relevancy of design in public policy. Urban design has mile-high implications for quality of life, sense of place, and sense of community. The pedestrian-friendly zones boost social and economic development simultaneously. (del Rio, 2004)

Beautifying public spaces in downtown and touristic areas of Rio de Janeiro

### **Rio de Janeiro Thoroughfare Rua Dias da Cruz Elevates Pedestrian Use ▲**

*Improved urban streetscapes in Rio de Janeiro encourage children to participate in outdoor activities.*

*Figure 4.7 // (Jacob, P. for Agência O Globo, 2013; retrieved from <http://esporte.uol.com.br>.)*



"There's a lot of kids that live here  
and a lot of cars that  
pass by really fast sometimes  
I think it is  
kinda dangerous."



increased the environmental security in these urban places (del Rio, 2009). The large pedestrian presence and mixed-use buildings create natural surveillance, and the cleanliness cultivates ownership and community maintenance efforts. Wide sidewalks are clearly delineated from vehicular traffic lanes to increase pedestrian comfort and safety.

The downtown district named Méier is a unique Rio Cidade project site because the local population represents a mixture of middle- to low-income families. The physical qualities of the street were especially lacking: street vendors clogged up the sidewalks, vehicular routes were complex, and irregular parking complicated the vehicle-pedestrian interface (del Rio, 2009). Rio Cidade focused on the main street called Rua Dias da Cruz, a major commercial corridor. Lane widths were redrawn for consistency, a median with lighting and palm trees was implemented, and sidewalks expanded to include seating, lighting, signage, and plantings (see Figure 4.8). On Sunday's the street shuts down altogether for pedestrian-only community events. (del Rio, 2009)

Improvements in the quality of life in the Méier district, as a result of improvements in the public realm, are visibly measurable. Vehicular and pedestrian flow is smoother and higher volumes of children frequent the



Self-Esteem

Belonging/Love

Safety

Physiological



spaces adjacent to Rua Dias da Cruz (del Rio, 2009). The new urban design affords children the opportunity to play and move about safely while absorbing the sensory stimulation inherent in a downtown city district. The possibility for social interaction is high and opportunities for discovery are embedded in the environment.

### **Median Design Separates Moving Traffic from Parking Areas ▲**

*The re-design of Rua Dias da Cruz resulted in an attractive public street with improved cleanliness and clear traffic separation.*

*Figure 4.8 // (image from Google Earth Street View, 2013)*



## *Paseo de la Reforma*

México City, México



"The government started  
paving some of the streets  
but there are still  
many more to do."



## Paseo de la Reforma

México City, México

As discussed in the Project Basis section on Mexican architectural and urban design history, the Champs-Élysées-inspired Paseo de la Reforma was brought to México City by the French Emperor Maximilian I. The boulevard was one of the first public streets to break the large, rectangular grid which was characteristic to colonial Mexican cities. Street trees, floral displays, and monuments were ordered by the Emperor, which was also unprecedented in the country. The improved streetscape design catalyzed economic development and remains a central artery for growth and development today (see Figure 4.9). (Herzog, 1999)

The Paseo de la Reforma is well-maintained and continually improved upon. Bike lanes echo global trends towards healthier lifestyle choices, and the lush amount of vegetation is highly sensorial for children. The wide sidewalks clearly delineate pedestrian-only areas (see Figure 4.10). Design principles from Paseo de la Reforma may be used for the calle principal in Vistas del Cerro Grande called Nueva España, which is similar in width at approximately 200 feet. Space must be properly distributed to multiple transportation modes while still supporting pedestrian interaction, communication, and movement.

### **The Monument “El Angel” Attracts High Volumes of Pedestrians ◀**

*Although the design of the Paseo de la Reforma supports multiple modes of transit, there is no safe crossing to the roundabout which boasts the monument “El Angel,” an international destination.*

*Figure 4.9 // (flickr user Robert Blackie, 2010)*

### **Wide Walkways Create a Comfortable Street Atmosphere for Pedestrians ▼**

*The classical design of the Paseo de la Reforma can provide cues for Nueva España in Vistas del Cerro Grande. Expansive, paved sidewalks are a great starting point.*

*Figure 4.10 // (Ewald, 2013)*



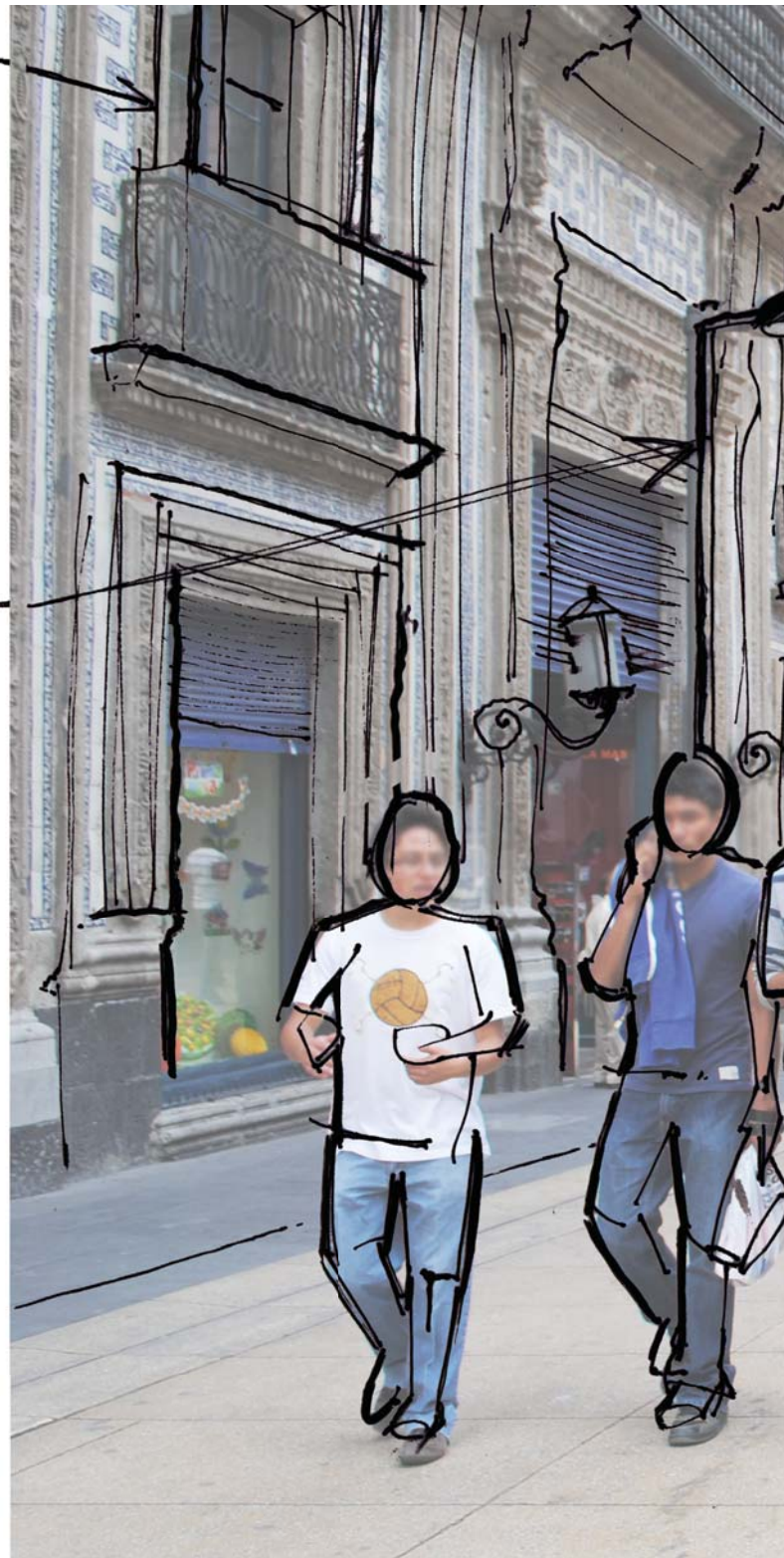
Safety

Physiological



# CAMINO PEATONAL //

- mixed-use buildings provide enclosure and define the corridor while increasing security through indirect surveillance
- adequate amounts of pedestrian lighting keep the access way secure at night





# PEDESTRIAN ACCESS WAY



**Continuous Pedestrian Activity on Francisco I. Madero Street Increases Security and Economic Growth, México City ▲**

Figure 4.11 // (Ewald, 2013)



# CAMINO PEATONAL //

The *camino peatonal* is similar to the *calle principal*, as both are urban linear corridors specifically designed for movement. The pedestrian access way is specifically tailored to the needs of pedestrians, who are the highest priority in these public spaces. In addition to movement urban access ways facilitate various activities, social interaction, and communication. The *camino peatonal*, like streets, are often defined by building facades or vertical planting elements to create a sense of enclosure along the pathway.

Access ways are especially important in the future design of public spaces in Vistas del Cerro Grande. The *camino peatonal* can provide safe connections, mitigate conflicts between vehicles, pedestrians, and bicyclists, and simultaneously reduce criminal activity and physical assaults. Many community members may not consider a walkway





[pedestrian access way]

*an urban linear corridor designed solely for pedestrian activity and movement; facilitates social interaction and communication, and is typically enclosed by buildings*

\*see Image Citations for information on the auto-ethnographic study speech bubbles included in the Methodology and Design Typology sections

### **Dilemmas and Opportunities for the Camino Peatonal: A Framework for Childhood Development ▼**

Figure 4.12 A—L // (various sources)

#### **PHYSIOLOGICAL REQUIREMENTS**

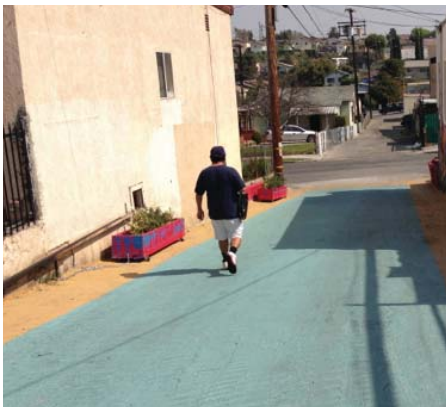
- Walkways support pedestrian activity such as biking and walking, promoting active lifestyles
- Access ways increase connectivity and expand pedestrian transit networks
- Adjacent building facades require regular upkeep to maintain community pride

#### **SAFETY REQUIREMENTS**

- Lighting, signage, and seating amenities increase security and pedestrian comfort
- Commercial building uses encourage social interaction and boast higher amounts of activity and surveillance
- Buildings fronting walkways can establish territory, but must also provide surveillance

#### **DEVELOPMENTAL REQUIREMENTS**

- Complex environments with sensory stimulation refine mental processes and encourage exploration
- Access ways are ideal locations for environmental initiatives, which can teach children steward-like ideals
- Trail-like networks support movement, play, and activity, which stimulates the brain



G



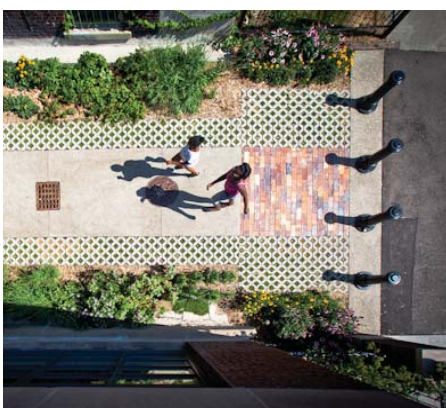
H



I



J



K



L

a traditional type of urban space. However the camino peatonal is a likely stage for social interaction and chance encounters, supporting movement, recreational purposes, and productive ends.

“... the public peace of cities is not kept primarily by the police. It is kept primarily by an intricate, almost unconscious, network of voluntary controls and standards amongst themselves and enforced by the people themselves.”

*(Jane Jacobs as quoted by Moughtin, 2003, p. 130)*

Physiological Requirements



### Physiological Requirements

Similar to public streets the basic construction and physical features of the camino peatonal largely determines the success of the corridor design. Paving material and surface markings are a minimum to distinguish lanes for pedestrians and bicyclists, creating visual patterns and consistency along the length of a given pathway. Lighting, site furniture, signage, vegetation, and other amenities beautify neglected passageways and increase environmental security and comfort.

Although a single pathway has a handful of benefits a greater trail network would connect Vistas del Cerro Grande to downtown Chihuahua and various city districts along the route. A network or system of passageways allows pedestrian and bicycle flow in-and-out of the community, which ultimately increases the regional relevance of the neighborhood to the city.



Adjacent, path-defining buildings or structures are also an important ingredient for successful pedestrian access ways. For example, buildings protect adjacent pathways from strong desert winds and grant more shade than low-lying vegetation on warm-weather days. The buildings or vertical elements defining the pathway require upkeep and innovative design applications to create viable and inclusive place-nodes along the route.

## Safety Requirements

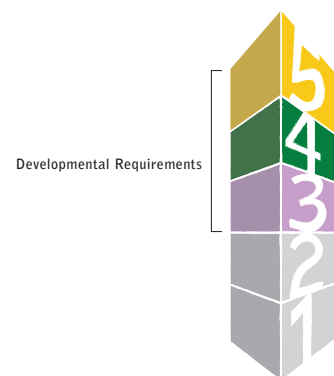
Signage, lighting, and other site amenities must be used strategically to create well-designed corridors that encourage community use, and promote environmental security. Commercial buildings are especially successful on the camino peatonal as they contribute to economic development and generate high volumes of consumers and site users.

When funding is available for neighborhood improvements in Vistas del Cerro Grande, good design and materials should not be entirely sacrificed for cost-efficiency. For example, one high-end material used wisely in combination with other recycled resources can elevate the aesthetics of design projects to places imbued with community identity and pride.

## Developmental Requirements

Many camino peatonal amenities discussed in this section are repeated across the other public space types. For instance site improvements and site details naturally increase surveillance in public spaces while meeting basic physiological requirements discussed above. Implementing the camino peatonal in Vistas del Cerro Grande addresses some developmental needs of children, contributing to the overall strength of the typology package. Diverse and different community spaces are stimulating for children and invite playful exploration.

Alleys, a type of urban access ways, are traditionally used for utilities access or stormwater management. This type of the camino peatonal is an appropriate location for learning landscapes that teach children environmental



stewardship principles. Chihuahua is located in a semi-arid, desert-like landscape, making urban corridors a prime location to teach children good water management practices. This could be displayed through rainwater harvesting methods and runoff mitigation.

Creative design-features and unexpected spatial organization or patterns invite child development into urban architecture. Innovation requires ingenuity and commitment, but can also be achieved with substantial financial resources. The precedents in this section represent a combination of these things, and are most effective when added to the larger typology for Vistas del Cerro Grande.

“To walk a good path to a successful urban place is to savor the expectation of reaching the destination, of our first glimpse of the place as we approach, of the quickening as the gravitational pull of the place becomes stronger, of crossing the portal where not-place becomes place, and of moving into the space where we are transformed into citizens.”

*(White, 1999, p. 58)*



## Avalon Green Alley Network

Los Angeles, California



### **Beautified Pedestrian Alleys Increase Use and Opportunities for Social Interaction ▲**

*This recently renovated alley in Detroit, Michigan hosts a simple but stimulating palette of plantings and paving patterns.*

Figure 4.13 // (Shaouni, 2012)

### **One of Many Residential Alleys in South Los Angeles in Disrepair ►**

*Graffiti and trash quickly detract from public spaces.*

Figure 4.14 // (flickr user ChazWags, 2008)

## Avalon Green Alley Network

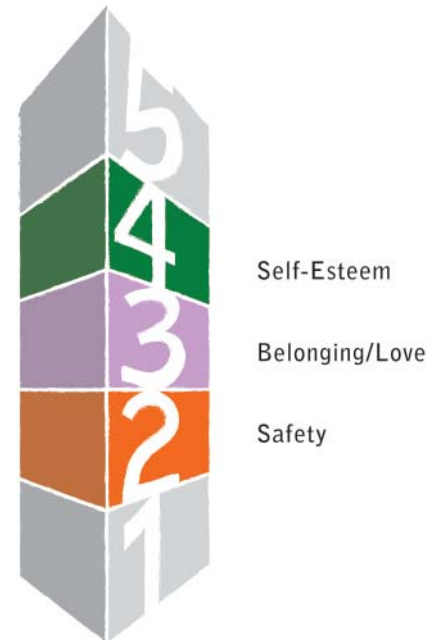
Los Angeles, California

Most green alley projects in North America are geared towards stormwater management initiatives, but the unrealized Avalon Green Alley Network in Los Angeles caters to the three pillars of sustainability, meeting social, economic, and environmental objectives alike. The project is looking to reclaim a portion of 900 linear miles of residential back-alleys as productive public spaces in historically underserved city neighborhoods. The alley ways represent an untapped and under-utilized amount of square footage (see Figure 4.13). (Newell et al, 2012)

The Trust for Public Land, among numerous other collaborators, is maximizing the opportunities in South Los Angeles alley ways to meet a number of objectives identified by the community members themselves. The

participatory planning processes allow active community members to take ownership and pride in the newly created urban spaces (similar to the aims of this report). The comprehensive goals for the Avalon Green Alley Network include (Newell et al, 2012, pp. 7-8):

- Improving stormwater runoff management and developing best practices
- Reducing the urban heat island effect
- Harvesting rainwater
- Promoting active and healthy lifestyles through walking, cycling, and playing outdoors, and encouraging "non-motorized transport"
- Increasing connectivity by expanding and enhancing networks between residential areas, schools, and open spaces
- Further building community and livable neighborhoods throughout the process



"I feel a little safe here during the day, but not really at night. There are gangsters graffiti-ing the walls, and there is a lot of trash."





Prior to project conception the alley ways were negatively perceived by the public, viewed as "dirty" and "potentially dangerous" areas with little desirability (see Figure 4.14) (Newell et al, 2012, p. 7). Alley security is projected to increase with lighting, seating, pavement, and other ecological amenities. Although the collector streets in Vistas del Cerro Grande do not necessarily fit within the traditional definition of an alley way, these side streets are equally unsafe, unmonitored, and undesirable by the community's standards. The Green Alley program tactics are highly relevant to the camino peatonal design in Vistas del Cerro Grande, as crime prevention strategies are embedded in the renovation of these forgotten pathways. Safety is paramount to the success of the urban access ways; and the active lifestyle promoted by a complete, non-motorized network is an added bonus for adolescents (see Figure 4.15). Further the alleys are an additional location for social interaction, movement, play, and sensory stimulation.

"I feel safer when I'm with my parents than when I am with my friends here."



**Caminos Peatonales Connect City Districts and Promote Active Lifestyles ▶**

*Functional pathways provide new opportunities for children in Vistas del Cerro Grande as public safety increases.*

Figure 4.15 // (flickr user Claudio Olivares Medina, 2010)







## ***Francisco I. Madero Street***

Centro Histórico, México City, México



Belonging/Love

Safety

Physiological

### **Francisco I. Madero Street**

Centro Histórico, México City, México

In recent years three streets in México City's Centro Histórico prohibited vehicular traffic and opened up circulation to pedestrians only (see Figure 4.16). These areas host shopping districts and are infused with nightlife opportunities which are especially attractive to younger crowds (Samuelson, 2011). Francisco I. Madero street, which spills out into the main Zocalo, is packed from end to end with retail stores and local businesses. Pedestrians fill the walkway throughout the day and remain into the evening.

The government has named these new access ways "Cultural Pedestrian Corridors" (Samuelson, 2011). Other renovated streets include Regina Street (completed in 2008) and Moneda Street (completed in 2012). Surveillance incorporates new security cameras and increased police force presence. The



increase in nighttime activity is also believed to reduce crime; many criminals in the area have been caught and arrested. Long-term planning efforts include building façade clean-up and restoration, as many of the buildings date back to the colonial period. (Samuelson, 2011)

Carlos Slim Helú, the richest individual in the world, is a large financial contributor to the Cultural Pedestrian Corridor project among other public funding sources. Although the walkways and shopping centers are a step in the right direction the historical district has a long way to go before the entire area is considered "safe" as a whole (Samuelson, 2011). Regardless Madero Street is a fitting model for the camino peatonal in Vistas del Cerro Grande, which should mimic the pedestrian-friendly atmosphere in city centers through public space design. Corridors could eventually support local businesses or help facilitate weekend market activities.

### **Pedestrian-Only Zones Eliminate Vehicular-Pedestrian Conflict Altogether ▲**

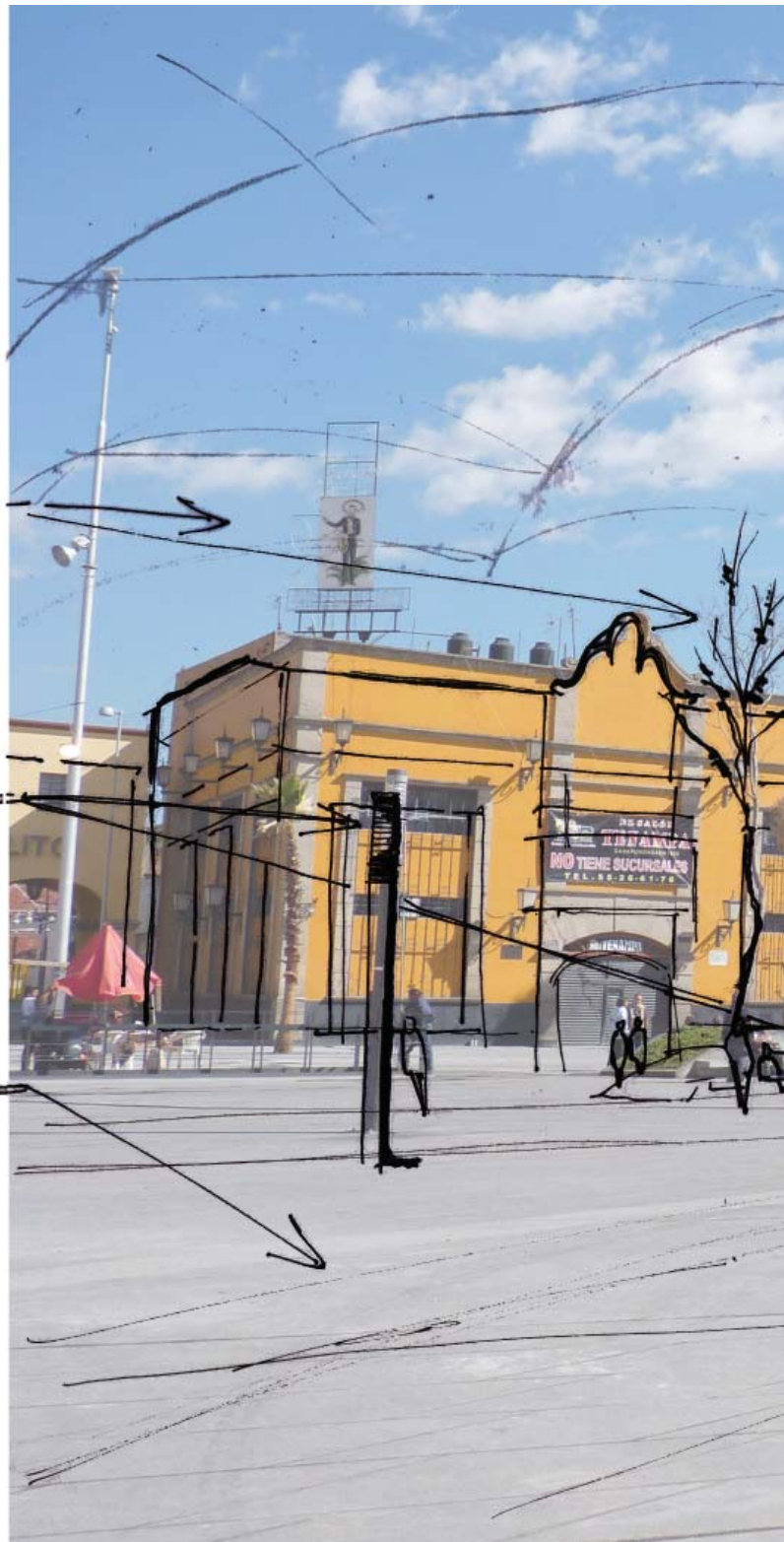
The former vehicular street, Calle de Madero, has a comfortable width to building height ratio.

Figure 4.16 // (Ewald, 2013)



# PLAZA MAYOR //

- large urban squares are highly legible with high amounts of direct and indirect surveillance from adjacent buildings with various functions
- trees and overhead canopies can provide relief from the sun and cast shadows; visual stimulus for children
- amenities such as seating and lighting increase security and make squares more desirable public spaces
- paving patterns are visual stimulus for developing children





# CENTRAL SQUARE

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**Expansive, Horizontal Plazas Allow Visibility Across the Length of the Space ▲**

*Low-lying site features maintain natural surveillance in Plaza Garibaldi.*

Figure 4.17 // (modified from flickr user Gary Denness, 2010; Ewald, 2013)



# PLAZA MAYOR //

The *plaza mayor* (also known as the *zocalo* or central square) is historically important in the colonial development of México. Originally inspired by Roman and Greek urban design, the plaza mayor was one of the first areas established by Spanish settlers in new Mexican cities and subsequently used as a reference point throughout the city planning process (Herzog, 1999). Coincidentally (or not), central plazas were also highly regarded by indigenous civilizations who contrasted "vast public spaces" with massive "temples and towering stone pyramids;" similar to the monumental churches and government buildings the colonists sited adjacent to public squares (Herzog, 1999, p. 168).

For the purposes of this report, the plaza mayor is defined as a central urban public space or square that is horizontally expansive and open. The plaza dramatically contrasts the iconic building masses which usually determine the shape



[central square]

*a central urban public place that is horizontally expansive and open; highly contrasts adjacent, architecturally iconic building masses; traditionally called the “zocalo” by Spanish settlers*

**Dilemmas and Opportunities  
for the Plaza Mayor: A  
Framework for Childhood  
Development ▼**

\*see Image Citations for information on the auto-ethnographic study speech bubbles included in the Methodology and Design Typology sections

Figure 4.18 A—L // (various sources)

**PHYSIOLOGICAL REQUIREMENTS**

- Amenities such as trees provide shade in horizontally expansive spaces
- Expansive, open plazas are flexible in nature and conducive to a range of activities
- Plazas must be designed for pedestrian comfort to increase usage

**SAFETY REQUIREMENTS**

- Visibility across plazas must be maintained for vulnerability
- Residents, vendors, and tourists create high volumes of social activity, which increases natural surveillance
- Plazas are for pedestrian-use; directly adjacent streets should be eliminated altogether when possible

**DEVELOPMENTAL REQUIREMENTS**

- Seating areas lend to high amounts of social interaction and developmental stimulus
- Plazas must be socially inclusive spaces to increase a child's sense of belonging in his or her community
- Plazas should be regionally iconic to increase civic pride among children



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and the size of the zocalo. The plaza mayor is described as the "front porch" area to the building masses (Herzog, 1999).

Of all of the public space types discussed in this report the plaza mayor is one of the most "convivial" and "gregarious" community places (Childs, 2004, p. 3). Public squares are the ultimate multipurpose flex-space, meeting diverse needs for various people groups. For example the plaza mayor may be used for discussions, meetings, celebrations, festivities, exhibitions, and protests (Childs, 2004). In the late nineteenth century zocalo's evolved to include French-inspired trends such as "kiosks, park benches, fountains, trees, and arcade-covered sidewalks" (Herzog, 1999, p. 169).

An active plaza mayor in Vistas del Cerro Grande similar to the precedents discussed in this section would increase environmental security and provide additional space for the weekend *tianguis* (or street market). If sited next to

**The Zocalo in México City  
Transforms into an Ice Skating  
Rink during Winter ►**

Vast plazas allow for a variety of seasonal activities for both tourists and regular users.

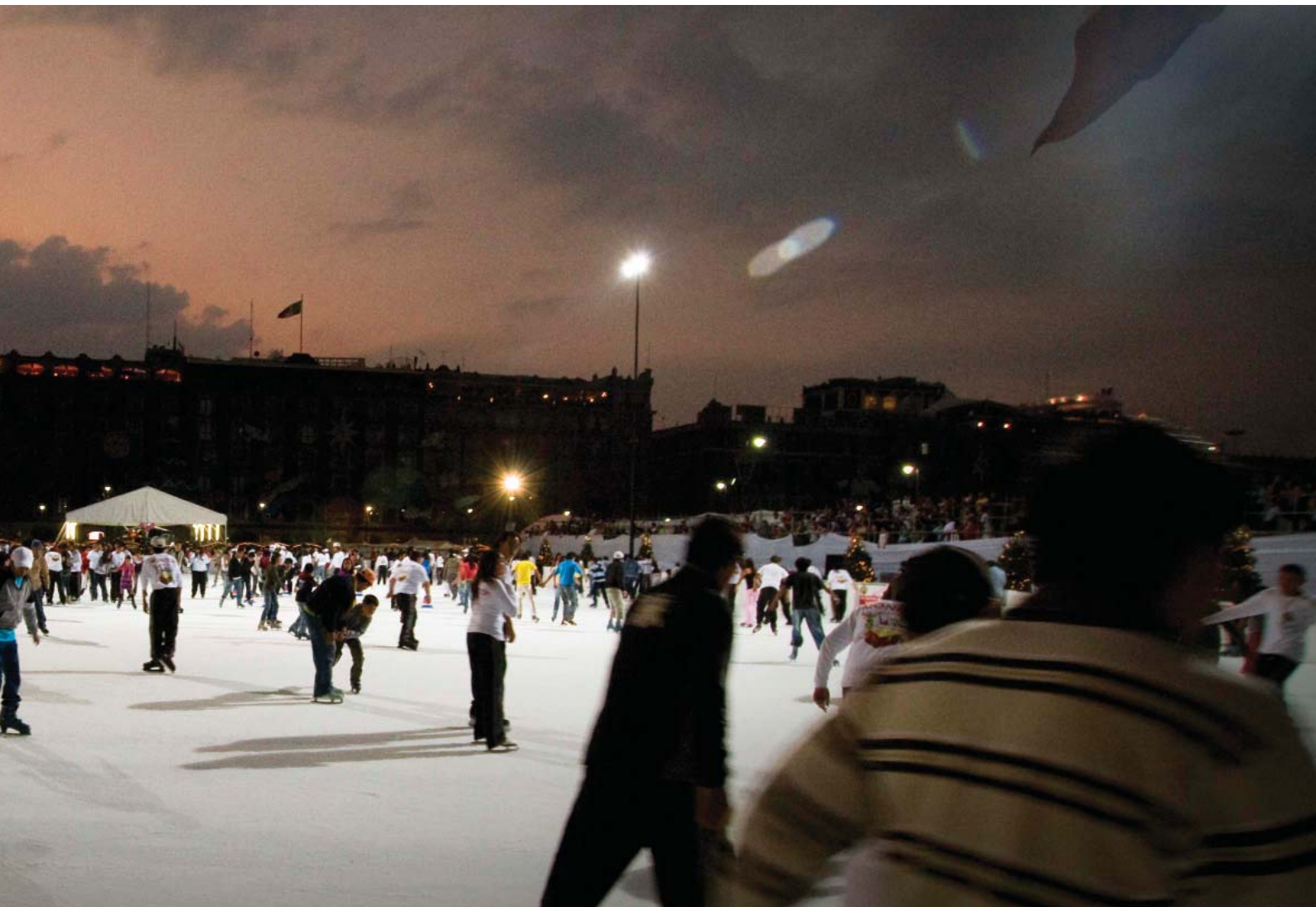
Figure 4.19 // (flickr user Javier Hidalgo, 2009)



the new community center or gymnasium the zocalo is likely to be successful and maintained by residents and governmental entities. Most importantly, developing central spaces in Vistas del Cerro Grande must be spatially rich and iconic to spawn regional community identity in the larger city of Chihuahua.

“... the plaza [is the] most vital arena for public life in Mexican and Latin American cities.”

*(Herzog, 1999, p. 169)*



“One can learn much about a place and its people just by looking around its plaza.”

(Wagner et al, 2013, p. 1)

Physiological Requirements



### Physiological Requirements

Similar to urban paths, the success of urban container spaces is dependent on a balanced combination of pedestrian-oriented amenities. For example monumental buildings do not always provide adequate shade in public squares, which may necessitate the use of shade trees in the plaza mayor. The expansive nature of plazas should be maintained to preserve the flexible qualities of central squares, and appraise each plaza's ability to support diverse social functions.

Public plazas must be designed for user comfort, which will determine the number of people who regularly visit the space. Benches, comfortable eating areas, and pathways are all important features that contribute to holistic, user-centered designs, increasing the likelihood of socially sustainable urban spaces. Comfort in public spaces is central to a successful plaza mayor in Vistas del Cerro Grande.

Safety Requirements



### Safety Requirements

Plazas are environmentally secure when visibility is maintained across the entirety of the space. Vegetation should maintain an appropriate level of openness; low-lying shrubs and high-canopied trees with narrow trunks are ideal. Successful plazas with high amounts of pedestrian activity are naturally safer urban centers because of built-in surveillance.



Zocalos are primarily for pedestrian-use which eliminates conflicts with automobile users. Many plaza edges abut public streets, which may force pedestrians to cross high-speed traffic to access public squares. Complex pedestrian-vehicle situations should be avoided whenever possible.

### Developmental Requirements

As discussed in the previous public space types, social spaces supply important stimulus for childhood development. Plazas also provide children opportunities to interact with other community members. Squares are ideal locations for chance encounters which are further encouraged through circulation design and spatial organization. The expansive nature of the plaza mayor emphasizes social inclusion and allows a child to develop a sense of belonging in his or her physical and social settings.

Plazas with unique features help establish regional identity, which is important for building civic pride and responsibility among community youth. The role of the plaza mayor is important in micro-, meso-, exo-, and macro-systems because the zocalo is at the center of Mexican community identities. Zocalo design in Vistas del Cerro Grande will be an important consideration for future neighborhood development and construction.

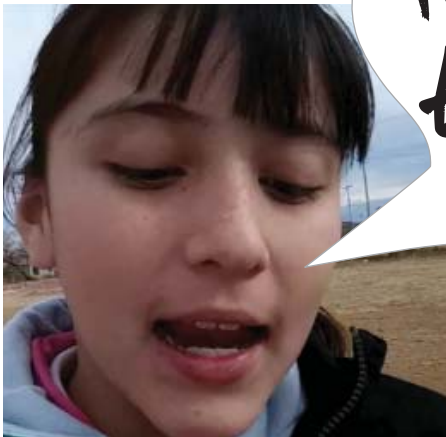


## Plaza Hidalgo

Coyoacan, México City, México



"They should put up signs that tell people to take care of this place."



### **Pedestrian Signage in the Plaza Hidalgo Informs Public Users about the Zocalo ▲**

Information signage increases civic pride in public spaces.

Figure 4.21 // (flickr user ILMO JOE, 2011)

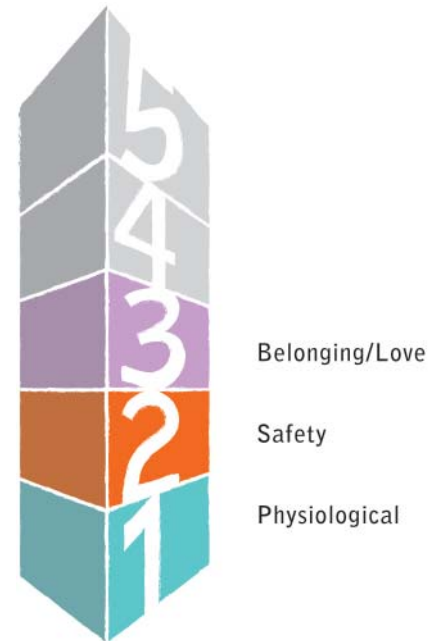


## Plaza Hidalgo

Coyoacan, México City, México

The Plaza Hidalgo is an incredibly pedestrian-friendly environment with a very comfortable atmosphere. This is largely because the plaza mayor is only accessible by foot and is filled with activity on a daily basis. Between restaurants, stores, and the large church Iglesia San Juan Bautista "anchoring" the square, the Plaza Hidalgo has all of the components for a thriving urban center. (Tsay, 2013)

As mentioned before there is no vehicular traffic through or around the square; instead streets leading to the Plaza Hidalgo are directed away from the public space. There are ample pedestrian amenities including seating, planting beds, lighting, water features, and signage (see Figure 4.21). Plaza Hidalgo remains safe throughout the entirety of the day and in the evening as there is always a significant number of people occupying the space (see Figure 4.22). The plaza also hosts a market on the weekends that fills all the corners of the space. The community has a high sense of belonging and attachment to the plaza and the environment is well-maintained (see Figure 4.23). (Tsay, 2013)



### **Continuous Activity throughout Public Space Increases Environmental Security ▼**

*Pedestrian lighting and the presence of people increase user comfort.*

*Figure 4.22 // (flickr user kate at yr own risk, 2010)*





**Plazas are Enjoyable Spaces for all Family Members as each Sub-Space Supports Unique Activities** ▶

Government buildings and churches attract crowds to public plazas.

Figure 4.23 // (flickr user Lucy Nieto, 2010)

Squares are likely locations for chance encounters between diverse social groups, which the Plaza Hidalgo is especially suitable for. The plaza supports a variety of functions, most importantly being effortless pedestrian circulation through the sub-spaces. The plaza is named after Father Miguel Hidalgo, who was an important character in the Mexican Revolution in 1910 (Tsay, 2013). This is a fitting name because the revolution also marks the start of the *Centenario*, the era of departure from European ideals (Trillo, 1996, p. 75).





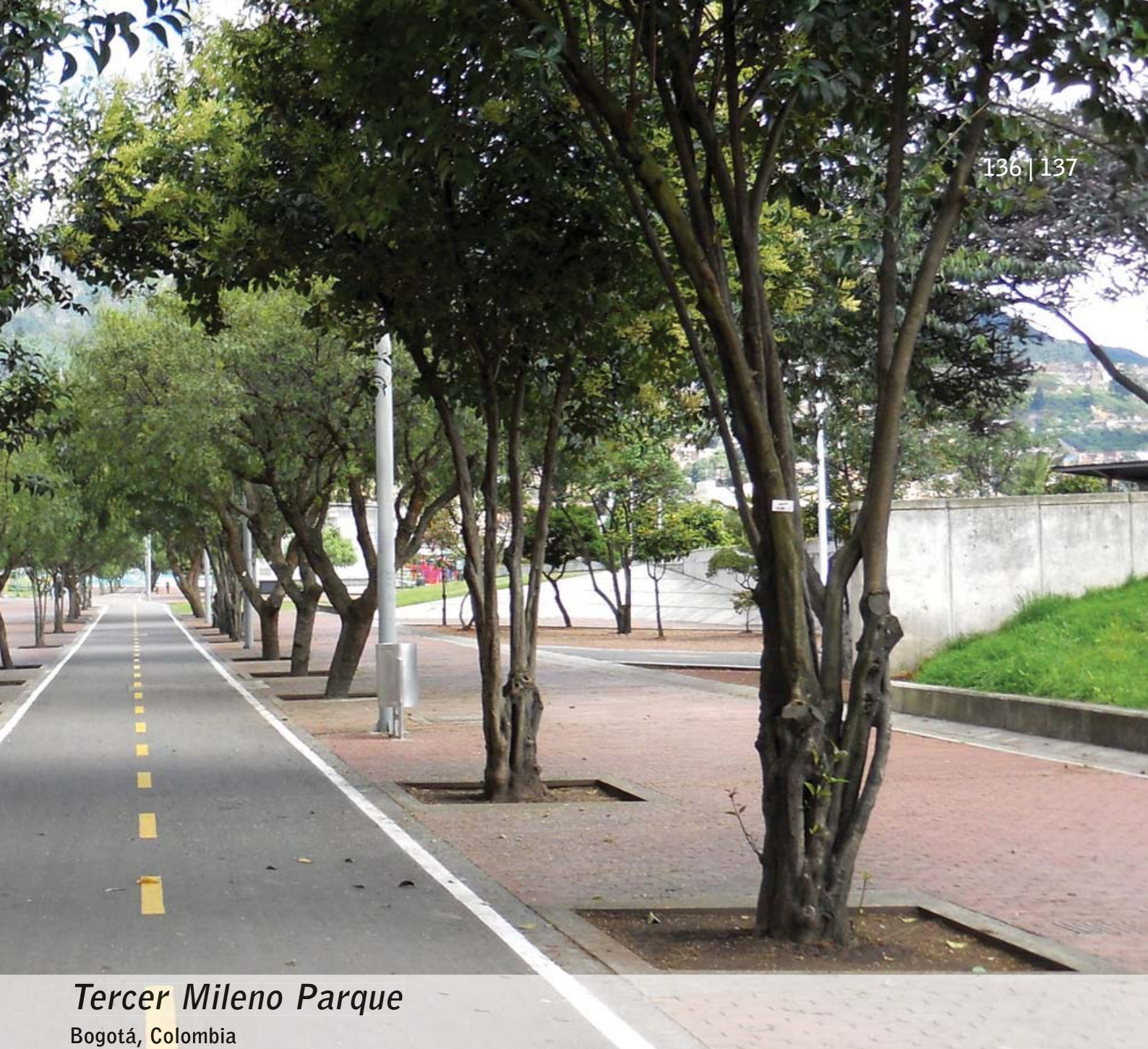




"This is a place to do all  
the sports:  
we can jog, be on  
bikes, or sit."







## Tercer Milenio Parque

Bogotá, Colombia

### Tercer Milenio Parque

Bogotá, Colombia

Tercer Milenio Parque is an important precedent for public spaces in Vistas del Cerro Grande because the project arose out of a need for a symbolic urban center. The park is also an economic generator for Bogotá, the capital of Colombia. The park was a significant project in 1998 as it marked the physical transformation of the city center from the dangerous El Cartucho district to a safer and healthier urban amenity. (Ciudad de Bogotá, 2007)

### Central Public Spaces Support a Rich Assortment of Pedestrian Activities ▲

Bicycle lanes at Tercer Milenio Parque are clearly defined and visible, creating a secure atmosphere.

Figure 4.24 // (flickr user jeirestri, 2012)

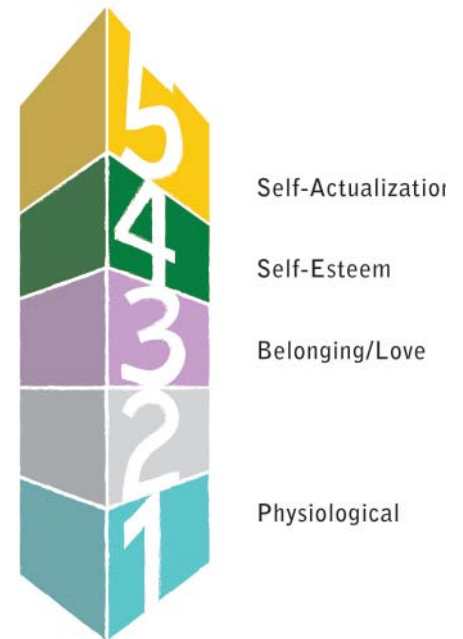


"The community center is nice because of the crafts and activities for kids."



Tercer Milenio Parque is expansive in size, hosting two million visitors daily and totaling \$105 billion dollars in investments from a multitude of organizations and institutions. The park includes walking trails, playgrounds, a plaza area, fountains, bike path, fields, courts, eating areas, restrooms, and over 800 parking stalls (see Figure 4.24). There is also a technology learning center for local children that is far beyond capacity, illustrating the high demand for child development opportunities (see Figure 4.25). (Ciudad de Bogotá, 2007)

Although this precedent is not a traditional zocalo, the park embodies the centrality of place in society and the community identity innate to urban centers. Vistas del Cerro Grande is currently a set of pieces and parts without a unifying, central public space. Many recent projects will require further development to generate unity and widespread civic pride. (Ciudad de Bogotá, 2007)



### **Tercer Milenio Parque Includes a Computer Lab and Learning Center for Area Youth ◀**

*Building programming and public space design work together to provide children with diverse learning opportunities.*

Figure 4.25 // (flickr user CDI Apps for Good, 2009)



ESPACIO PÚBLICO PARA TODOS | Plaza Mayor



## Plaza de la Constitución de Oaxaca

Oaxaca City, México

### **Spatial Organization of the Plaza Mayor in Oaxaca is Utilized Throughout the Day ▲**

Street vendors locate in the zocalo, increasing pedestrian activity and safety.

Figure 4.26 // (flickr user  
BethanyWeeks, 2013)

## Plaza de la Constitucion de Oaxaca (Zocalo)

Oaxaca City, México

The Plaza de la Constitucion de Oaxaca is similar to many other zocalo's in México. Juan Pelaez de Berrio and Alonso Garcia Bra are the Spanish colonists who designed the plaza mayor in 1529. The Cathedral and Palacio de Gobierno are adjacent to the plaza which symbolizes the importance of the church and the royal family in the colonial period. Similar to previous Toltec civilizations, the colonial plaza mayor established social hierarchy and is continually used as a reference point in urban planning and design.

(Shen, 2013)

The plaza was historically used for many social functions and continues to meet similar societal requirements today. The community space supports vendors selling goods and services, pedestrians meeting in small groups, and children needing space to run and play (see Figure 4.26). The zocalo also hosts national festivals, political protests, and numerous concerts throughout the year. The plaza is a symbol of civic pride and is well-maintained by the government and the community. (Shen, 2013)

High amounts of social activity contribute to the general security of the plaza. Low-level vegetation allows for complete visibility across the site, and trees provide shade during warmer times of the year. The plaza is accessible to pedestrians, bicycles, and vehicles alike, but is first and foremost a "front porch" to the iconic buildings and a centerpiece of the pedestrian urban fabric.

(Shen, 2013)



Belonging/Love

Safety

Physiological



"We all have a right to be friendly with people. That's what the gangsters should do."



# TERRENO BALDIO //

- formerly vacant, un-safe lots can be transformed into vibrant urban spaces
- programming provides outlets for adolescent growth & development, such as artwork creation opportunities engaging youth & community artists
- complex urban farms (with level changes) can become exciting physical obstacles for children
- performance spaces and outdoor learning areas are especially beneficial for developing youth, creativity and confidence





# VACANT LOT



**A Formerly Vacant Lot in Caracas, Venezuela  
Becomes a Lively Community Center and  
Arena for Child Development ▲**

Figure 4.27 // (modified from flickr user lubrio, 2011; Ewald, 2013)



# TERRENO BALDIO //

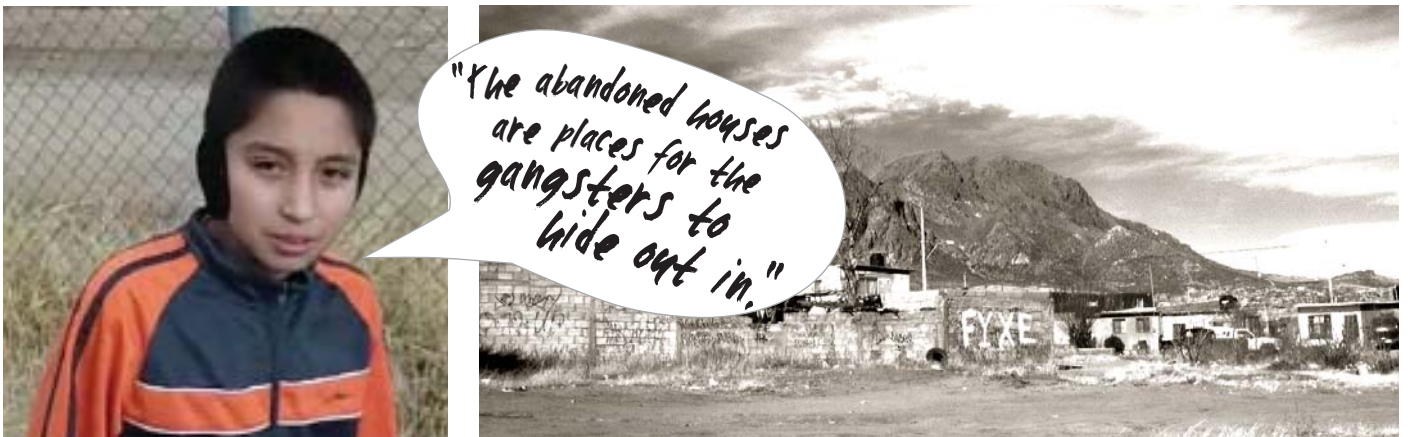
The *terreno baldio* is unlike the previous public space types addressed in this report. Vacant lots are unique by definition as these untouched tracts of land are typically “ungraced by human structures and [are] therefore ‘vacant’” (Pyle, 2002, p. 305). Naturally-occurring places are embedded with phenomenon, invoking exploration and limitless possibilities for learning and play.

Although the *terreno baldio* is invaluable for child development, the precedents discussed in this section involve developed vacant lots. This is for many reasons: first, formerly vacant lots in Vistas del Cerro Grande are physiological and safety hazards to children, threatening sociological, ecological, and economical advancement. Like the trashed *arroyo* and schoolyards in Vistas del Cerro Grande, these precedents are located on previously contaminated sites



A

B



C

D



E

F



[vacant lot]

*plots of land prior to human intervention and construction, with naturally occurring features; could also be a previously occupied territory abandoned for a considerable period of time, indicated by structure quality and overgrowth*

\*see Image Citations for information on the auto-ethnographic study speech bubbles included in the Methodology and Design Typology sections

### **Dilemmas and Opportunities for the Terreno Baldio: A Framework for Childhood Development ▼**

Figure 4.27 A—L // (various sources)



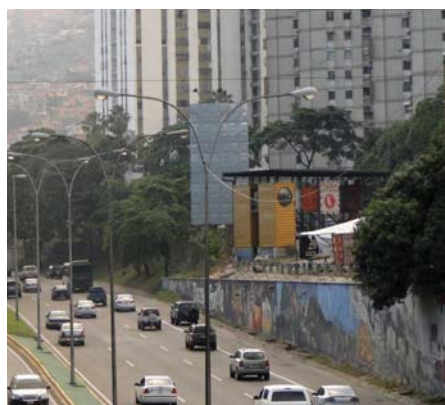
G



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K



L

### **PHYSIOLOGICAL REQUIREMENTS**

- Potential physical hazards must be mitigated, eliminating uncertainties and risks
- Vacant lots are agents for environmental sustainability, providing opportunities to restore ecological systems
- Vacant lands do not contain health hazards or contaminants

### **SAFETY REQUIREMENTS**

- Beautifying vacant lots has immediate effects on the perception of public spaces, increasing natural security
- Siting vacant lot remediation projects in highly visible locations increases safety
- Basic pedestrian amenities and cosmetic improvements make spaces safer

### **DEVELOPMENTAL REQUIREMENTS**

- Maintain natural, wild qualities of vacant lots when possible to provide stimulus
- Employ a variety of innovative materials and textures in site design amenities
- Support diverse, unusual activities and programs that cannot be provided in other public spaces



that were simply too dirty to serve any greater purpose, especially for youth initiatives.

Secondly there is a high number of vacant lots and abandoned properties in Vistas del Cerro Grande. Although these spaces have naturally valuable stimuli they are not safe places for children to gather, play, discover, and learn. The risks discussed in the social artifacts include gangster activity, pollution, and lack of surveillance.

Vacant lots span across small- and medium-scale projects. They are used informally by the public for any number of purposes, and may be loosely defined by circulation patterns and adjacent land uses. Vacant lots and abandoned properties are charged with potential that must be properly evaluated and channeled to create viable public spaces for child development in Vistas del Cerro Grande.

Physiological Requirements



### Physiological Requirements

The terreno baldio is an excellent informal public space, but there are mandatory environmental considerations for each site. Potential physical hazards must be mitigated early in any given project, assuring that the vacancy does not contain contaminants which may negatively affecting public health.

Vacant lots are optimal platforms for promoting environmental sustainability and stewardship ideals. When ample amounts of vacant lots are available for development project sites should be strategically selected in highly visible locations, as vacant lot projects can easily become exemplars for social, economic, and environmental sustainability campaigns. The arroyo in particular is a potential vacancy that could be redesigned to support childhood development and environmental initiatives in Vistas del Cerro Grande.

Safety Requirements



### Safety Requirements

Vacant lots can incorporate a variety of well-designed pedestrian amenities to increase security and comfort. Location is a major factor in determining environmental safety; therefore vacant lot development sites should be

selected according to context. Beautifying vacant lots and existing structures has immediate effects on the perception of public spaces which increases natural security. A “cue to care,” as Joan Nassauer writes about in her article “Messy Ecosystems, Orderly Frames,” helps passer-by’s begin to understand the ecological and social processes occurring in the terreno baldio, and further appreciate the opportunities inherent in vacant lots (Nassauer, 1995).

Although exploration and creativity are cultivated in undisturbed vacant spaces, safety precedes self-actualization on Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs. The vacancies in Vistas del Cerro Grande are associated with crime, fear, and insecurity, which is evident in the surveys, interviews, meetings, and auto-ethnographic study. The safety requirements must not be sacrificed or minimized for developmental objectives.

### Developmental Requirements

Vacant lot design and development is creative by nature and is poised to contribute to child development objectives. When possible, natural and wild site qualities should be maintained and enhanced to provide sensory stimulus. In addition to natural phenomenon built materials should offer a variety of textures, unexpected visual patterns, scents, and sounds, maximizing opportunities for child advancement.

There is no limit to vacant lot programming as abandoned properties are apt to support an array of developmental activities. The calle principal, camino peatonal, and the plaza mayor cannot always provide the possibilities embedded in vacant lots, meaning opportunities must be capitalized.

“It is my premise here that nothing is less empty to a curious, exploring child than a vacant lot, nothing less wasted than waste ground, nothing more richly simmered in promise than raw ground.”

(Pyle, 2002, p. 306)



## Tiuna el Fuerte Cultural Park

Caracas, Venezuela



"they could clean up  
that lot and put  
a park there."





## Tiuna el Fuerte Cultural Park

Caracas, Venezuela

Tiuna el Fuerte Cultural Park, designed by Lab.pro.Fab Architects, is a community center project on a formerly vacant lot benefiting more than 500 at-risk youth in the El Valle arts district in Caracas, Venezuela. The community center spaces have diverse functions and strong interior-exterior relationships (see Figure 4.28). The building itself is constructed with recycled materials, including shipping containers (construction remnants from wealthy project sites nearby) and travel cupholder trays. The project is innovative, cost-effective, and well-designed (see Figure 4.29).

The center is a hub for culture, education, and recreation, offering children opportunities for learning and play alike. The site includes a basketball court, skate park, semi-outdoor stage area, community radio studio, classrooms, and computers. Designed to “improve the human spirit,” Tiuna el Fuerte allows children to master new skills and pursue inner talents, such as learning to play an instrument or taking a silk screen printing workshop (see Figure 4.30).

Located next to a major roadway Tiuna el Fuerte is highly visible to vehicles passing by and the larger region. The programming and community identity embedded in the design features is a large, socio-cultural display of the youth living in El Valle.

Vistas del Cerro Grande community members can take inspiration from Lab.pro.Fab Architects’ project. Tiuna el Fuerte is an innovative display of material ingenuity. The cultural park illustrates the potential buried in every vacant lot.



## Lab.Pro.Fab Rejuvenated a Vacant Lot for Adolescent Learning and Development ◀

The community center is constructed using recycled materials, offering unique visual stimulation for youth.

Figure 4.28 // (Lab.Pro.Fab, 2010)



## Shipping Containers and Surfaces are Painted by Local Artists and Area Youth ◀

Youth artwork creates a sense of belonging and civic pride.

Figure 4.29 // (Lab.Pro.Fab, 2010)



ESPACIO PÚBLICO PARA TODOS | *Terreno Baldío*







**Community Stage Gives Children an Opportunity to Master Creative Skills and Build Self-Confidence ◀**

The community stage at Tiuna el Fuerte is an important space for neighborhood functions.

Figure 4.30 // (Lab.Pro.Fab, 2010)

Well I think it's improving around here. They're working really hard to give us a better life.







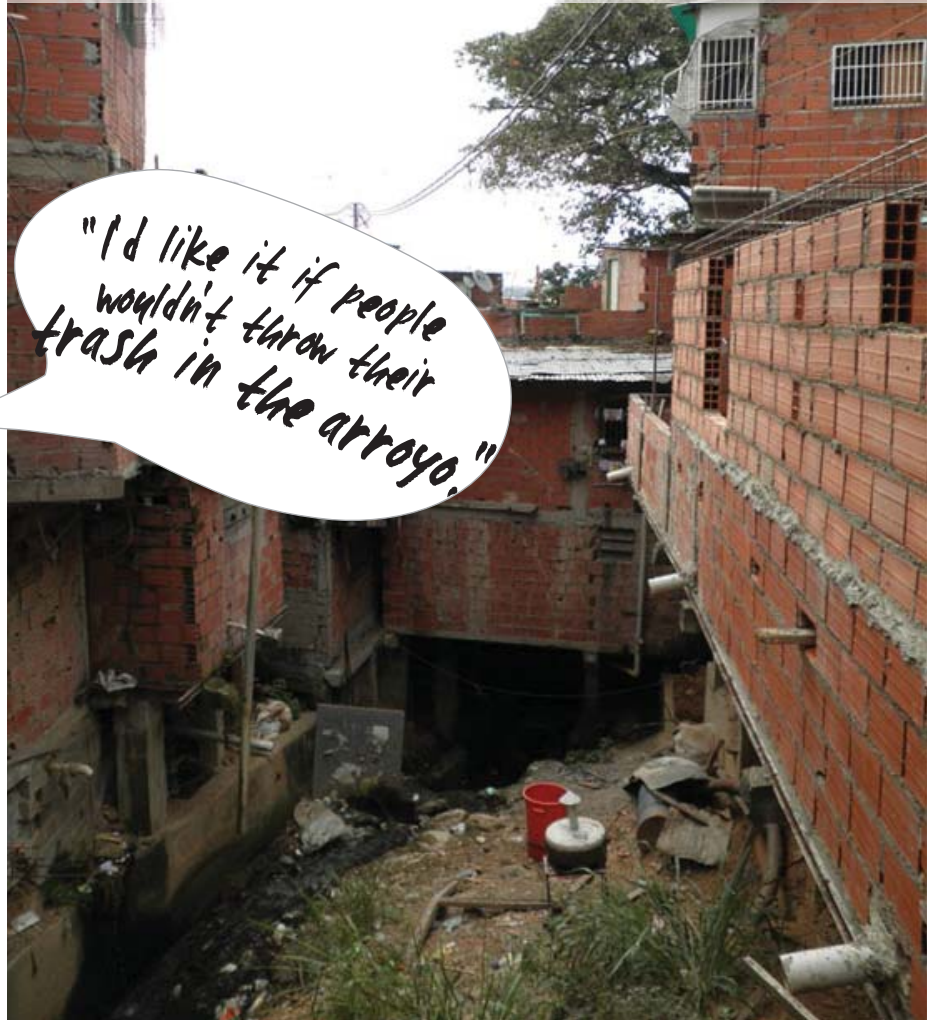
**Without Structured Waste Disposal Systems, Ecological Systems Become Obsolete ►**

Leftover spaces in La Moran are used as large dumping grounds, contaminating the environment.

Figure 4.31 A—B // (various sources)

## Cañonera Creek & Recycling Center

La Moran, Caracas, Venezuela



## Cañonera Creek/Recycling Center

La Moran, Caracas, Venezuela

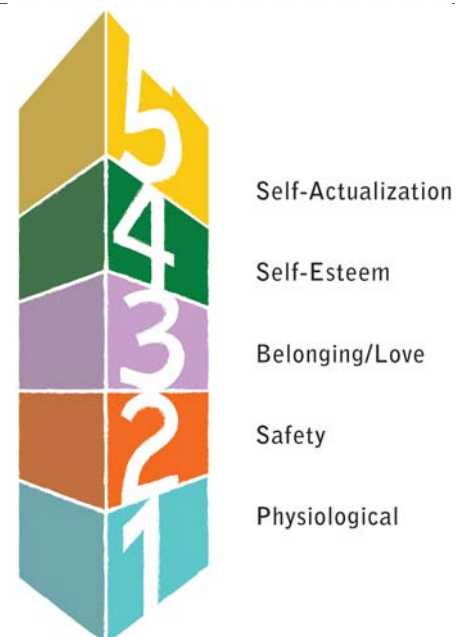
This project by Enlace Arquitectura embodies the spirit of social, economic, and environmental sustainability, benefitting underserved clients who do not typically realize the value of design services as it relates to their respective communities (Bell et al, 2008). The site is in La Moran, one of the poorest and most decrepit slum neighborhoods in Caracas, Venezuela, covering an area of approximately 37 acres. Children and teenagers are plagued by a multitude of



B

physiological, safety, and social risks, including frequent homicides, adolescent pregnancy, gang activity, and a significant high school dropout rate. The filthy neighborhood environment and general lack of hygiene breeds health issues and the spread of diseases. (Holmes, 2011)

Like many slum developments in developing countries the steep topography and cramped streets are not conducive for trash pick-up services (see Figure 4.31). Instead the community uses unclaimed spaces for waste disposal, which requires periodic burning to clear room for more trash. The creek is a major







**A New Recycling Center is the Hub for a Waste Collection Cooperative, Operated by Local Youth ▲**

*Teenagers develop skills and increase self-confidence by participating in waste collection program and receiving pay.*

*Figure 4.31 // (flickr user Jeanette Warner, 2007)*

hazard, collecting trash from over 400 housing units. All-in-all the community members are embarrassed by their squalid living conditions and have an overall low sense of confidence. (Holmes, 2011)

Enlace Arquitectura devised a comprehensively sustainable framework to resolve the societal threats induced by the state of public spaces in La Moran (which is currently unrealized). The first initiative converts 12 waste dumps into productive public spaces, each with an assortment of site furniture, solar lighting, recreational spaces, and plots of land for urban agriculture. These former waste dumps are transformed into lively public spaces and sources of community pride. Public health and physical safety hazards are mitigated, scoring big marks on Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs. (Holmes, 2011)

The second initiative attacks the unsanitary conditions of Cañonera Creek restores ecological health to the watershed. Separate, parallel sewage collectors





*"This should be a natural place where water flows through."*

are installed and open spaces along the waterway are converted into a continuous network of open green spaces, further meeting the physiological requirements of public space for positive childhood development.

(Holmes, 2011)

The third initiative will generate economic sustainability through a new waste management system and youth cooperative. Young men and women in the cooperative will be responsible for maintaining the public spaces and operating the waste collection system (trash pick-up) and new recycling center (see Figure 4.32). The adolescents involved in the cooperative can contribute to projects and tasks that truly matter, provoking pride in themselves and in their community.

Community public space initiatives in Vistas del Cerro Grande can also embody the three pillars of sustainability, a sentiment collectively expressed by the children in the auto-ethnographic study. Similar to Cañonera Creek, the arroyo in Vistas del Cerro Grande is brimming with trash and is poised to become a much more ecologically-friendly environment. The students are eager to participate in neighborhood clean-up efforts which would increase the community-confidence of adults and children, as well as the viability of outdoor places.

## *Buenos Aires Youth Policy Office Projects*

Buenos Aires, Argentina



"There are a lot of bad people around here that are up to no good. There is graffiti all over the walls."

## BA Youth Policy Office Projects

Buenos Aires, Argentina

This small-scale project by the agency Buenos Aires Ciudad involves youth education through arts and culture as a substitute for undesirable activities. The organization received \$8 million dollars in public funding following the re-election of Mayor Mauricio Macri in 2011, who strongly supports youth initiatives in Buenos Aires. (Berg, 2012)

The initiative is titled "Generation BA" ("BA" stands for Buenos Aires). Instead of educating youth on "what not to do," Generation BA is using arts and culture to engage vulnerable adolescents in productive activities that reclaim and improve abandoned and unsafe public spaces, such as street corners and vacant lots (Berg, 2012). This includes exterior wall-surface clean-up and beautification efforts. The youth in the program team up with local artists to improve areas that are considered unsafe by the surrounding community. The project ultimately intends to decrease crime and encourage social interaction.

The adolescents involved in neighborhood beautification find purpose and identity through the projects. Children are physically able to project themselves onto wall surfaces, increasing creativity and providing ample opportunity for self-actualization. Opportunities for artistic expression in Vistas del Cerro Grande are important mechanisms for self-realization and actualization.

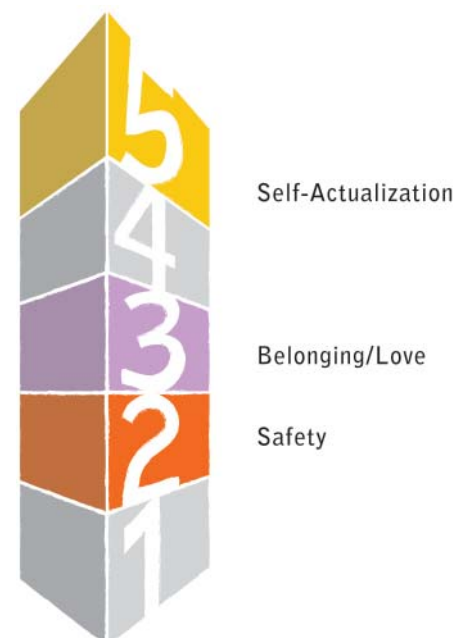
### Generation Buenos Aires Increases Public Safety through Community Artwork Projects ◀

Community youth work alongside local artists to beautify forgotten public spaces, such as street corners.

Figure 4.32 // (Buenos Aires Youth Policy Office, 2012)

### Creative Exercises Promote Mastery and Self-Confidence in Adolescents ▼

Figure 4.33 // (flickr user guaruja\_sp, 2011)





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Appendix A: Project Basis

Appendix B: Methodology





## CONCLUSION

Organized crime and violent gang activity is largely ignored in México as it is now a widely accepted part of everyday life. Not only is my work necessary, but it is urgent for addressing the violent environments children are exposed to on a daily basis in Chihuahua (outside of family dynamics and relationships). Improving the public realm in low-income neighborhoods in México and other developing countries could increase a child's quality of life, and more significantly alter his or her odds of successfully transitioning to adulthood.

Landscape architects and other design professionals must be familiar with social and cultural needs created by drastic globalization and rapid urban development. A new design specialization field must be defined in order to train urban practitioners how to respond to "rapid and complex" urban growth, and the social complexes that arise out of these situations (Smith, 2011, p. 7). Urban Think Tank (U-TT), an architectural firm geared towards under-served populations in developing countries, advocates "purpose-oriented social architecture" over "form-driven" architectural theories traditionally taught in universities. This shift in theory and practice is necessary for equalizing global social unrest.

Informal settlements are a spatial phenomenon, increasing exponentially in the Global South over the past 30 years (Pierce & Johnson, 2008). The "flexible" qualities and "improvisational" organization of these communities make them "a key aspect of, not an exception to, the globalized economy" (U-TT, 2012). Both architectural and landscape architectural design draw new political attention to modern spatial phenomenon social realities, further catalyzing global action.

Youth and education initiatives will be critical for empowering and training the next generation of youth leaders in shantytown developments around the world (U-TT, 2012). The dreams, aspirations, and hopes of adolescents in these urban slums must be fully realized and developed through structured educational systems, which will help foster critical thinking and problem solving skills. Design projects in urban slums project architects and planners



into a charged interface, a critical situ for establishing urban equality and raising the children who will become the leaders of tomorrow.

I have tailored my specific research to align with the existing body of knowledge on human development in low income urban neighborhoods, identifying gaps and critical needs in the literature base. At worst this report will suggest loosely applicable guidelines for the design of public spaces in Mexican shanty towns. However, at best this report will provide culturally sensitive and contextually appropriate solutions for public spaces in Vistas del Cerro Grande, outlining implementable solutions to positively enhance childhood development in the immediate future.

### Site Selection: Why Chihuahua, México?

At the onset of this academic year, I had only one priority for my masters' project: I wanted to investigate and create socially equitable outdoor spaces for a community with little or no access to landscape architectural design services. I was not particular about the type of design project, but I was particular about the people groups I wanted to concentrate my efforts towards. I sought out areas of interest and simply began contacting design professionals in the Global South who are advocates for public-interest design with similar values to my own.

A critical criterion for selecting Chihuahua and specifically Vistas del Cerro Grande as my project site was based on potential partners and connections in the Mexican city. Gabriel Díaz Montemayor, a professor in landscape architecture at Arizona State University and a designer for LaBOR Studio, was an ideal candidate for a research partnership and an important project advisor in regards to background knowledge and project content. Our serendipitous meeting provided a feasible opportunity to tackle issues concerning child development in marginal, low-income conditions. I have since realized that I did not choose Chihuahua; rather the sequence of events leading up to my decision seems to be part of a larger scheme in Chihuahua "choosing me."

## Next Steps for Vistas del Cerro Grande

Realizing the ideas in this report is a necessary next step for improving the daily lives of children in Vistas del Cerro Grande. First and foremost, portions of this document must be translated into Spanish and delivered to appropriate community activists in Chihuahua, México. Participatory design processes and cultural immersion are fundamental to successful efforts in this community; also illustrating a compelling argument for overlaying cultural anthropology research methods into landscape architectural design processes. Continuing my relationship with LaBOR may help expose the report ideas to the Chihuahuan Planning Institute, among other relevant stakeholders.

Projects like this report can be perceived as imperialistic because designers may carelessly export their ideals and aesthetics into developing countries without fully understanding foreign values, systems, and places. An imperialistic approach to public-interest design “remedies” problems with unsustainable and insensitive solutions. This demonstrates the importance of complete cultural immersion for future research and initiatives in Vistas del Cerro Grande, and further studies at the intersection of landscape architecture, urban planning and design, and cultural anthropology.

My future involvement with Vistas del Cerro Grande is currently undetermined, although I do hope to continue my project to some capacity. Working on this report for one year has affirmed my passion for public-interest design. I plan to continue working in this sector as opportunities arise, whether that be for a non-profit design organization, a public organization, or a private office.

At minimum, this report is intended to convey an optimistic message to the community, and children, living in Vistas del Cerro Grande. Future research and intervention in the neighborhood must treasure community input and continuously garner local feedback in order to create socially sustainable public spaces. Additional precedents must be collected and evaluated in the process, which will be important for generating project funding. Throughout the project duration the people of Vistas del Cerro Grande must remain at the center; their input must shape, direct, inspire, and guide development.



# GLOSSARY //

*access* — the ability to make use of something such as services (ie: the ability to locate and drink clean water)

*activity* — specific deeds or functions performed by humans in public spaces (as activity is defined in Brofenbrenner's theory of the ecology of human development)

*adolescence* — the period of human development which occurs between puberty and adulthood

*adulthood* — a person who is fully developed, physically and in terms of maturity

*barrios marginales* — slums or shantytowns (see informal settlements)

*calle principal* — main street

*camino peatonal* — pedestrian access way; footpath

*childhood development* — biological, physiological, and emotional changes occurring between birth and adolescence

*childhood transition* — the point of moving or passing from adolescence to adulthood

*civic space* — communal outdoor space in the public realm; civic spaces are important to community identity and support multiple community activities (also referred to as public space)

*cues to care* — defined by Joan Nassauer, cues to care inform passer-by's about ecological and social processes occurring in wild, messy landscapes; cues increase public perception, awareness, and responsibility

*developmental psychology* — the study of children's social and mental development

*ecology of human development* — developed by Urie Brofenbrenner, this theory considers the development of children in relation to their natural settings

*education system* — a formal, institutionalized means for acquiring knowledge during childhood and adolescence; involves professional instruction and curriculums

*el arroyo* — stream bed

*evidence-based design* — using theory and research to substantiate design strategies

*frontera* — border (referring to the US-México border region in this report)

*informal settlements* — an illegal or unauthorized community, typically constructed with scrap materials (also referred to as a slum or shantytown)

*Global South* — refers to the southern hemisphere; many developing countries are located south of the equator and are collectively referred to as the Global South

*globalization* — rapid growth and development on a global scale, particularly in cities; catalyzed by technological advancements (also referred to as rapid urbanization)

*interpersonal relations* — connections forged between a person and his or her settings

*microsystem* — based on Bronfenbrenner's definition, a microsystem is "a pattern of activities, roles, and interpersonal relations experienced by the developing person in a given setting with particular physical and material characteristics" (Bronfenbrenner, 1979, Loc. 372); mesosystems, exosystems, and macrosystems are successively larger in size

*paseo* — long, shaded Latino corridors inspired by French boulevards; characterized by monuments, wide walkways, and elegant landscaping features

*plaza mayor* — central square

*public-interest design* — provides design services to underserved clients, usually improving the health, safety, and welfare of communities

*public space* — see civic space

*rapid urbanization* — see globalization

*role* — an individual's position, responsibility, or duty within their family, community, and/or society

*settings* — surroundings and environment, both physical and social

*sierra* — mountain

*shantytown* — see informal settlements

*secure environmental design* — using site design details and features to improve public safety in urban environments (ie: crime prevention design principles)

*slum* — see informal settlements

*social inequality* — skewed social hierarchy systems, which are typically a result of an unequal distribution of wealth

*social sustainability* — "the maintenance and preservation of social relations and meanings that reinforce cultural systems" (Throsby, 1995 in Low et al, 2005, p. 5)

*terreno baldio* — vacant lot

*tianguis* — street market

*Toltec* — refers to indigenous civilizations prior to colonial settlement in México; the culture was based on Toltec wisdom, which we see embedded as archaeological symbols

*trans-cultural landscape* — an area, city, or region that is a fusion of social and cultural values (ie: the US-Mexico border region is a blend of US and Mexican ideals)

*typology* — a systematic study of types, unified by a distinct classification

*urban primacy* — the supreme dictatorship of one city in any given country; one city sets economic, social, political, and architectural standards for the entire country (ie: México City dictates other cities in México)

*zocalo* — square or plaza





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# IMAGE CITATIONS //

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- Figure 1.3: Ewald, L. (2012). Site Location. Modified from Google Earth Pro using Adobe CS6.
- Figure 1.4: Espacio Colectivo. (2012). Market Vendors Receive Half of the Income Required for Monthly Expenses. Digital photograph.
- Figure 1.5: Ewald, L. (2013). Adolescents Under 24 Represent a Majority of the Neighborhood Population. Created with data from Espacio Colectivo. (2012).
- Figure 1.6: Espacio Colectivo. (2012). Neighborhood Children Feel Safer in Outdoor Spaces during the Day. Digital photograph.
- Figure 1.7: Espacio Colectivo. (2012). Existing Infrastructure Conditions Require Immediate Attention. Digital photograph.
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A: Modified from Teruel, F. B. (2013). Digital photograph.

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Cover art: Ewald, L. (2013). Created using Adobe CS6.

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Preface: Ewald, L. (2012). Culmination of Social, Economic, and Political Factors Driving Urban Growth Patterns. Ink on trace paper.

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Project Basis: Ewald, L. (2013). Digital photograph.

Methodology and Findings: Ewald, L. (2012). Modified from Google Earth Pro using Adobe CS6.

Design Typology: Ewald, L. (2013). Digital photograph.

Conclusion: Teruel, F. B. (2013). Digital photograph.

Preface imagery: Ewald, L. (2013). Digital photograph.

Design Typology imagery: Ewald, L. (2013). Digital photograph.

Conclusion imagery: Ewald, L. (2013). Digital photograph.

Speech bubbles from auto-ethnographic study: Ewald, L. (2013). Created using Adobe CS6. Font: Xerographer Fonts. (2012). "Zombie Checklist." Retrieved from <http://www.dafont.com/zombie-checklist.font>. And Heather T. (2011). "Painted." Retrieved from <http://www.dafont.com/painted.font?text=painted>.



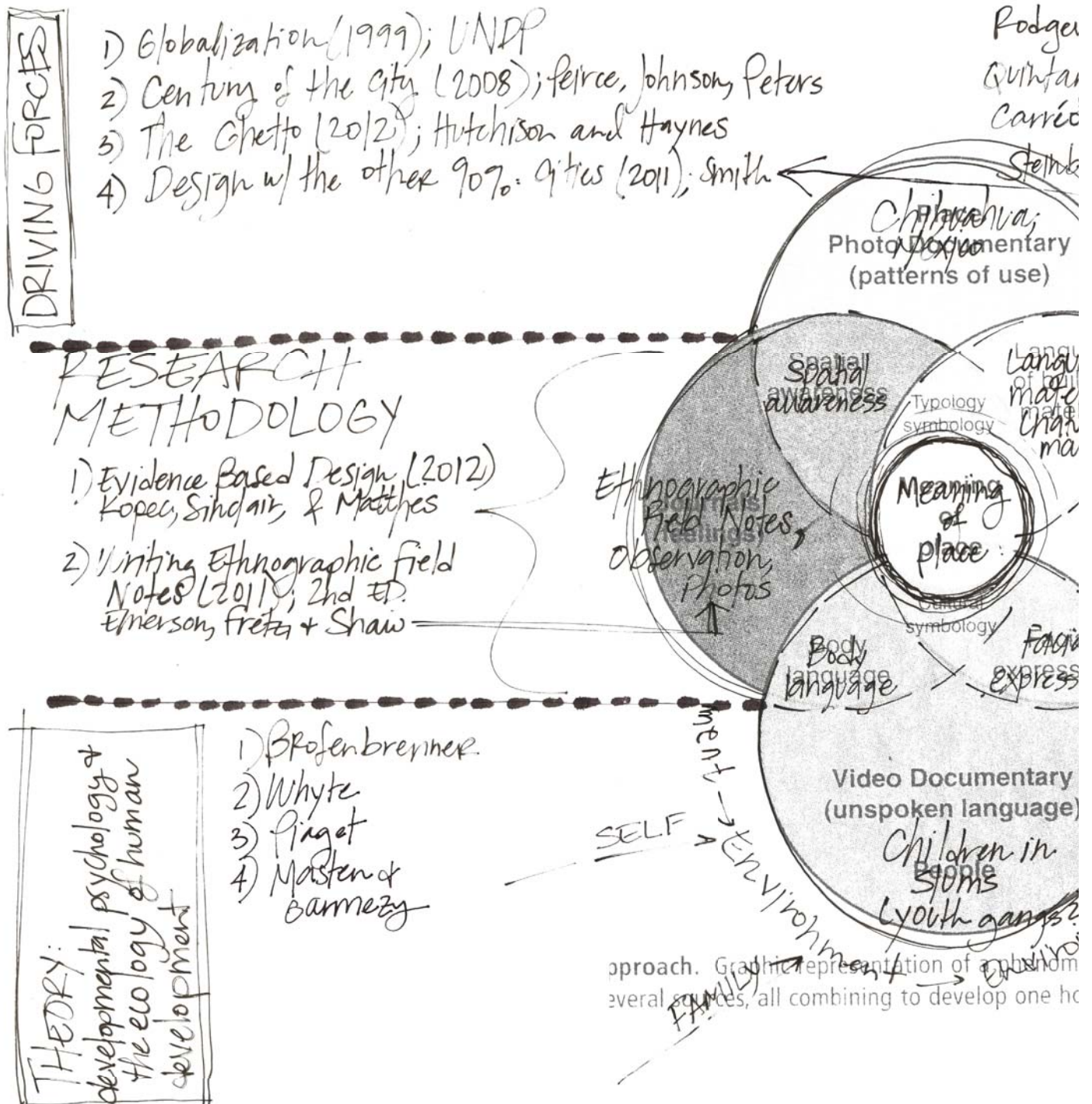


# *APPENDIX A //*

Literature Map

Project Workplan

Crime Prevention Through  
Environmental Design, Queensland



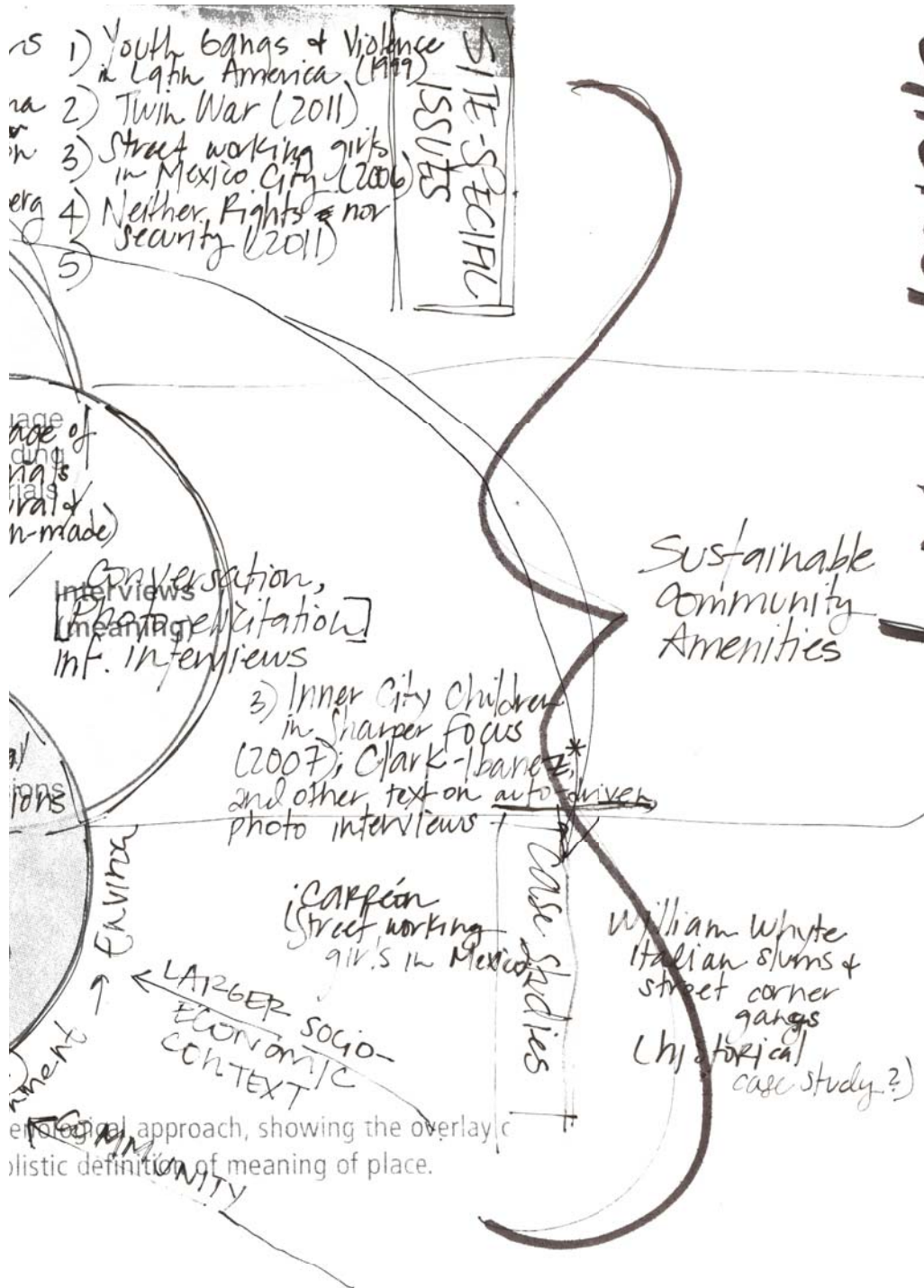
I definition of the meaning of place.

### Preliminary Project Literature Map

Literature mapping exercise, ink and marker on trace paper.



# Literature Map

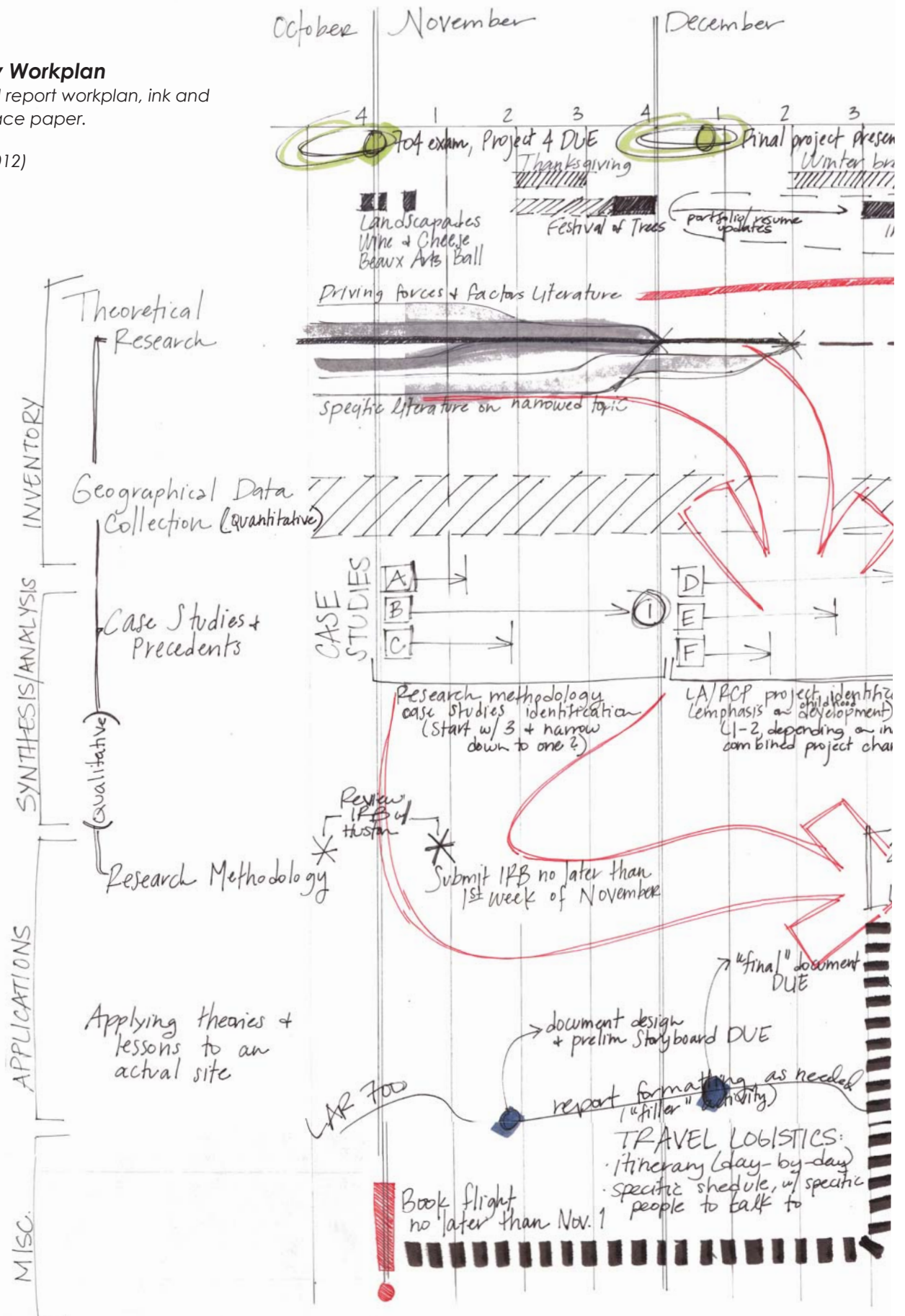


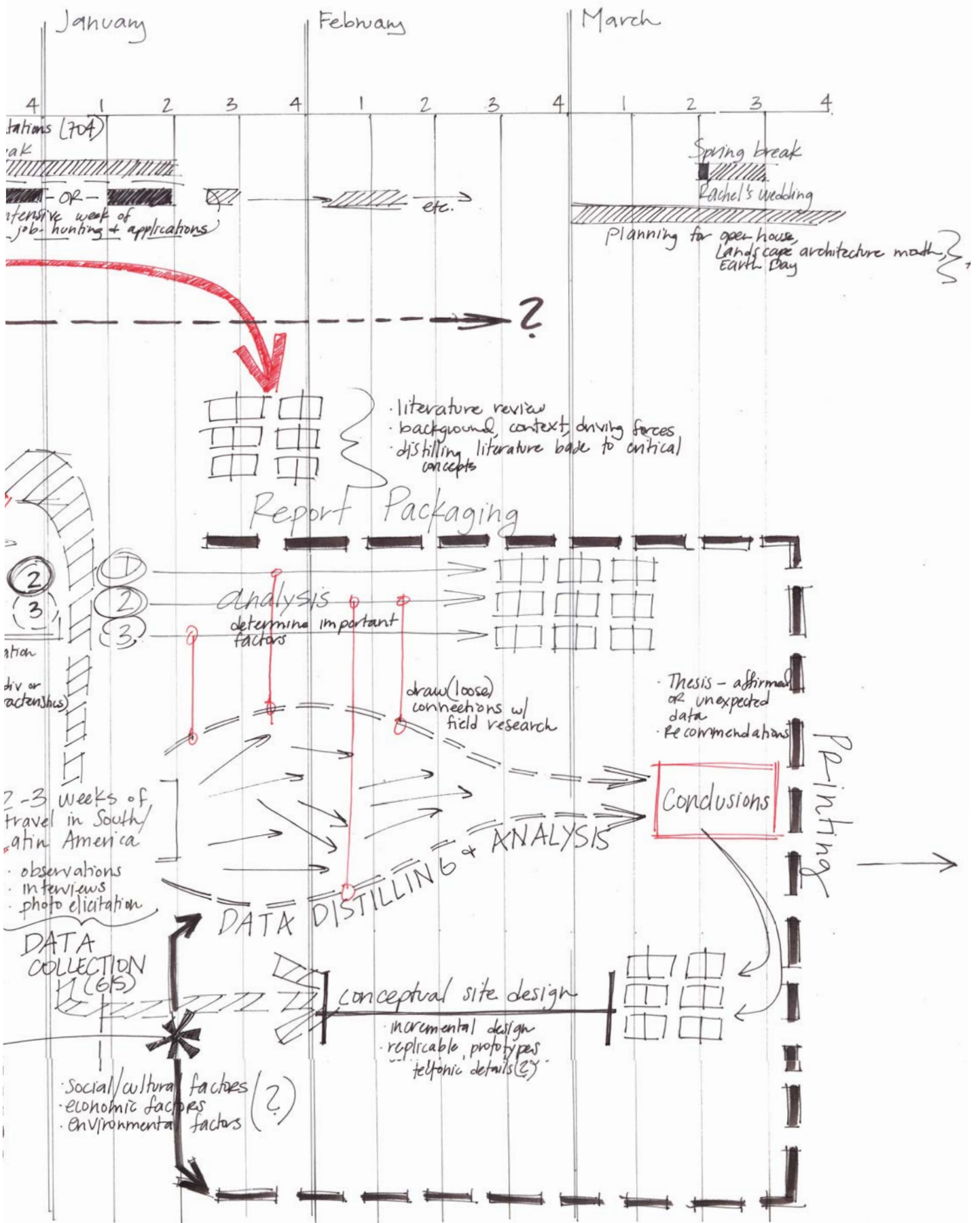
The designer/researcher would then synthesize all the findings of

## Preliminary Workplan

Proposal and report workplan, ink and marker on trace paper.

▲ (Ewald, 2012)







## Chapter Three

# IMPORTANT PRINCIPLES AND GUIDING IDEAS

In Chapter One the question was asked: how do we design and manage our built environments to be safer?

Three concepts were suggested:

- crimes against people and property are less likely to occur if other people are around
- it is also important that other people are able to see what is happening, and
- it is important to give people options and safe choices, particularly in their responses to what is happening.

Before examining the prevention of crime through the design of different types of urban settings, consider first six key principles which will inform the approach to the different built environments.

## 1 SURVEILLANCE

The idea of passive or “natural” surveillance is central to CPTED.

How then to create and manage our urban environments to “put eyes on the street or place”?

Clearly this must involve a *combination* of:

- the design of the public realm itself, whether neighbourhood, street, plaza or park
- the legitimate activities in that public realm
- the design of the buildings that define or adjoin that public realm and hence the physical possibility of overlooking it, and
- the land uses and activities in those buildings and hence the potential they create to have lots of people “available” to see into the public realm.

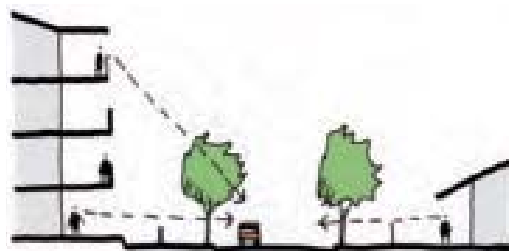


*Traditional designs encouraging surveillance of the public realm*

Some of these issues are dealt with in greater detail in sections of Chapter Six such as 1) The Design of Neighbourhoods; 2) The Design of Buildings; and 3) The Design of Public Places.

## Principle

- 1A The public realm and buildings must be designed and managed to maximise, consistent with other legitimate goals, the potential for passive surveillance.



*Seeing what is going on in the public realm*

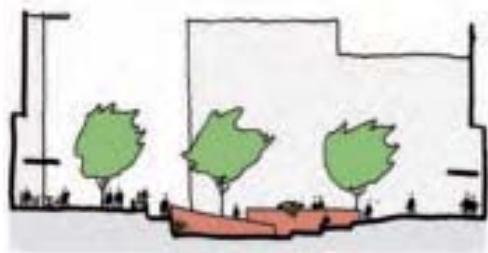
## Actions

- 1.1 Design with surveillance in mind.
- 1.2 Manage with surveillance in mind.
- 1.3 Require a compatible mix of uses in buildings and spaces (for example, restaurants, offices, shops, community or recreation facilities and urban housing) that:
  - attract lots of people from the community, and/or
  - deliver people for long hours night and day, and/or
  - encourage pedestrian movement between uses.



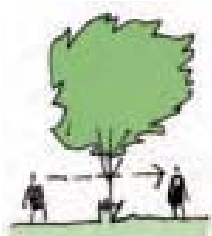
*Active street environments enhancing safety*

- 1.4 Put particular emphasis on the building design and uses at the level of the public realm (for example, the shop fronts or entry levels to buildings).
- 1.5 Locate active public and private uses thoughtfully within the precinct (for example, at corners or overlooking squares and parks or along important pedestrian routes) to maximise the contribution they can make to the surveillance of important places.
- 1.6 Locate potentially “difficult” uses (for example, some bars or night clubs) with other less challenging activities to ensure there is a range of people in the area.



**Active public spaces with amenity and good visibility**

- 1.7 Design public spaces to facilitate and encourage legitimate community and individual activities.
- 1.8 Design with unimpeded sightlines to key places in mind and then manage to maintain those sightlines (for example, maintaining view corridors over low bushes or walls and under the canopy of trees or shade structures).
- 1.9 Design to avoid “blind spots” where there is a reduced opportunity to see and be seen (as discussed further in Principle 6: Vulnerability).



**Design and management of landscaping for surveillance**

- 1.10 Design and manage in ways that acknowledge differences in night and day usage, attitudes, accessibility and capacities for surveillance.
- 1.11 Design lighting to ensure appropriate surveillance and avoid shadows and glare which might put people at risk (as discussed further in Principle 6: Vulnerability and in Chapter Seven).

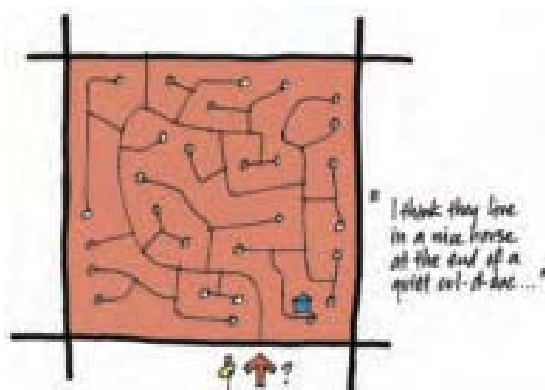


**Lighting of public events at night**

## 2 LEGIBILITY

The concept of “legibility” is increasingly important in urban design and CPTED.

An urban environment is said to be legible if it is designed in ways that allow people in it easily to know where they are and how to get to where they are going. It is not confusing and does not easily get people lost. In the way a legible book or letter can be read and understood, so also can a legible environment “be read and understood”.



**Neighbourhood design for legible way-finding...or not?**

Legibility is therefore about “way-finding” and about confidence. While this is important for those travelling in vehicles, it is a particularly important CPTED quality for pedestrians and cyclists in that:

- people can see which are the important or appropriate routes to take
- they can tell which are the desirable or likely places for the services they seek or most likely to be frequented by others

- they are less likely to become lost and wander into out-of-the-way places less likely to be overlooked
- they are therefore likely to be more confident and assured and less stressed, and
- they are therefore more likely to be observant of what is happening around them than if preoccupied with their being lost or stressed.

The aim is to put the individual “in control”. It is also about helping others (such as emergency services) to find the individual when needed.

It is not about making every built environment the same but about designing in ways that both celebrate differences while making enough things visible and clear enough to give out the right messages. At the same time there may be differences with which various cultural groups read environmental “cues”.

Many messages come from the broad structure and form of the area. Others come from applied detail like useful signage.

The idea of legibility applies to all urban environments and is therefore discussed in the sections of Chapter Six.

## Principles

- 2A Built environments must be designed, detailed and managed to make them legible for users, especially pedestrians and cyclists, without losing the capacity for variety and interest.
- 2B Legibility must be promoted in both the overall structure and form of the environments and in appropriate detail within them.



*The tropical sea visible from the city centre*



*Street design to allow landmarks to be seen*

## Actions

- 2.1 Design neighbourhoods, centres and other urban environments to make them easy to understand and navigate within.
- 2.2 Locate important service places like bus or taxi stops in places that are both visible and logical.
- 2.3 Design neighbourhoods and places to take advantage of existing (or set out to create new) man-made or natural features (like rivers, hills, sea-fronts, public squares, important civic buildings or public art) both to create landmarks to aid legibility and to make environments of special quality.
- 2.4 Encourage appropriate variety within the architectural and landscape design of buildings and spaces that create more legible urban environments.



*Landmark buildings in the city*



- 2.5 Support way-finding with sufficient signage and maps identifying such elements as streets, places, directions to services or help and building names and numbers.
- 2.6 Use integrated signage as an aid to legibility but in a skilful, creative and balanced way that is not so excessive and overly obtrusive that it undermines the very qualities that would desirably attract people to this place in the first instance.
- 2.7 Thoughtfully locate signage in logical places (for example, near building entries, at transport stops and at street intersections and other points of decision).
- 2.8 Ensure signage is itself legible (*including* well lit, of appropriate materials, using strong contrasts and colours, sufficiently large or reflective to be read at an appropriate distance at different times of the day and by people with some visual impairment or other disability). Signage should recognise cultural differences by using internationally recognised symbols and the languages of culturally prominent groups in the area.



*Signage for legibility in the public realm*

### 3 TERRITORIALITY

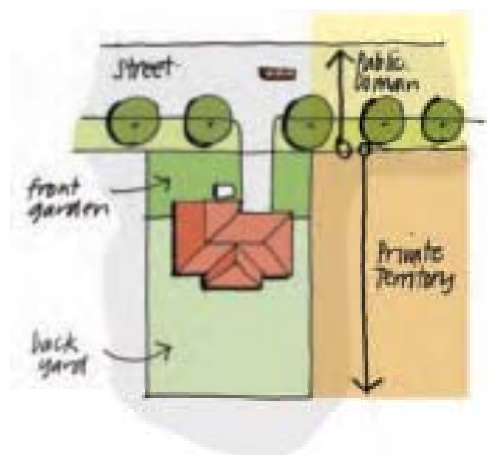
The importance of “territoriality” in human environments is now better understood.

Research suggests that it is significant for people’s sense of control that others not transgress or trespass on “their territory” without invitation. Equally, most people would prefer to avoid embarrassment or incident by being aware of other’s territory and not trespassing *by accident*.

Both groups are helped by a sense of clarity — that is, a lack of ambiguity — in the line between public and private ground or territory. It helps determine how spaces will be used and what represents appropriate behaviour within them.

At the same time, such agreed clarity removes from any would-be criminal the “defence” of misunderstanding and hence can enhance the security or defensibility of the property.

There may be different senses of “territory” in different communities. One widely agreed defining line of “territory” in Australia would appear to be found in the front fence that marks the street edge of the traditional detached family home’s front garden. It is clear what is public domain and what is private territory.



#### *Understanding and reading territories*

As housing forms have become more varied and complex, the human need to define territoriality has not diminished but requires more deliberate effort to aid CPTED outcomes. For example, more complex forms of “ownership” have developed which require thoughtful territorial expression.

At the same time, there may be a difference between territoriality and visual privacy, as the difference between the typical defined-but-visible front garden and the defined-and-visually-private backyard suggests.

Delivering privacy may well deliver territoriality but the reverse is not necessarily so. Indeed delivering territoriality should desirably not reduce appropriate surveillance of, and from, the public realm.



*Territorially strong but no surveillance of the street*

### Principles

- 3A Security must be supported by designing and managing spaces and buildings to define clearly legitimate boundaries between private, semi-private, community-group and public space.
- 3B Territoriality must be delivered without significant loss of surveillance.

### Actions

- 3.1 Design and manage buildings and spaces to define and convey information about proper boundaries without, in the first instance, resorting to formal devices like high fences, walls, “keep out” signs, locks and guards.
- 3.2 Creatively use built and landscaping features like planting, changes of material and texture, pedestrian shelter, changes of level, artwork, signage, low walls, seating and the like to define desired movement areas and delineate borders.
- 3.3 Acknowledge the importance of direct connection with and surveillance from buildings and those external areas that are physically accessible from adjacent public space. In these external areas, design thoughtfully to establish “territory”.
- 3.4 Ensure the design of territorial features is balanced with the need for surveillance, into and out of private or shared spaces.
- 3.5 Avoid creating too many ways to approach or enter buildings or private areas (such as housing) if the effect would create ambiguity or confusion or deny appropriate privacy or security.

## 4 OWNERSHIP OF THE OUTCOMES

Passive surveillance is an important CPTED strategy. It is most powerful, however, when the people who are around and able to see what is happening go on to respond in ways that will enhance their safety and the safety of others.

The sense of “ownership” of the public realm and other parts of the built environment, by the community, is therefore crucial to the success of CPTED and the sustainability of that community.

It is therefore important that individual members of the community care about their urban place, about how they are and what happens in them. If they do, they may be much more likely to use those places (which in itself are good for their safety) and in turn much more likely to intervene to maintain the security of other users.

Community development programs and other initiatives that facilitate community spirit (such as involvement in the planning or renewal of places) can encourage people to feel safe and to be out and about in *their* environment.



*The community using and caring about its shared places*

### Principle

- 4A A feeling of individual and community ownership of the public realm and associated built environments must be promoted to encourage a level of shared responsibility for their security.

### Actions

- 4.1 Actively “place manage” to encourage or deliver a wide array of legitimate activities and uses into the community’s places.
- 4.2 Design and manage to promote a sense of pride in the community’s public assets.
- 4.3 Design and manage to create opportunities for social contact and, through that, the building of social capital.
- 4.4 Build coalitions and alliances between agencies and key stakeholders with responsibilities for the public realm or particular precincts (for example, the main shopping street or recreational area) that develop and manage, on an inter-disciplinary and shared basis, community ownership and safety strategies.



***Festivals to recognise and engage with different parts of the community***

- 4.5 Recognise the needs and aspirations of as many groups within the community as possible in both the design and the management of the built environment, such as older people, women, ethnic or cultural groups, youth, those with disabilities and others.



***Festivals to connect past and present***

- 4.6 Develop safety strategies that celebrate and build on (and do not alienate) the cultural and heritage strengths and icons of the community.
- 4.7 Involve the community in enhancements (including new public art) and changes to their urban environments, particularly those in which a great deal of pride and use is present.
- 4.8 Take care not to alienate (by use or design) the neighbourhoods that surround key community places to avoid their withdrawing their engagement or support.
- 4.9 Engage media agencies in dialogue to encourage reporting that promotes community activities and spirit and, where appropriate, negotiate on reporting that might negatively influence the appropriate use and safety of public places.



***Murals on public infrastructure as a source of community pride***

## 5 MANAGEMENT

Just as the “place management” of legitimate activities within the built environment is important in matters of pride and safety, so also is the more basic maintenance and management of the physical assets.

Public places that are broken down, dirty, vandalised, full of rubbish and generally “looking unloved” are less likely to encourage active legitimate use by most groups, let alone a sense of pride and ownership by the community.

Places that are well looked after send out messages to would-be offenders that the community cares.

Even where places are looked after, continuing care needs to be taken routinely to maintain some of the important CPTED qualities of places, such as ensuring vistas and signage are not obscured by the growth of vegetation.

Not only must maintenance strategies for the environment be considered at the initial brief and design stages, but integrated systems of both routine and emergency maintenance must be instituted early and continue to operate during the life of the place.

### Principles

- 5A Places must be designed and detailed to minimise damage and the need for undue maintenance, without undermining the aesthetic and functional qualities that make the places attractive to the community.
- 5B Systems of both regular and reactive maintenance and repair must be implemented to maintain the quality of the places.
- 5C A regular auditing system of CPTED issues in the built environment must be implemented.



## Actions

- 5.1 Design places with sturdy materials and fittings that are not flimsy, fragile or inappropriately removable, but without resorting to harsh materials, “industrial strength” fittings or “prison-like security” that might undermine the attractiveness of the place.
- 5.2 Implement a system for the regular removal of rubbish and the maintenance of lighting, signage, landscaping, equipment and other elements of the public realm.
- 5.3 Implement a system to encourage the quick reporting of safety risks or anti-social behaviour in, or damage to, the public realm (for example, by having signage indicating up-to-date contact details).
- 5.4 Implement a system for the prompt cleaning, repair or replacement of infrastructure that is damaged.
- 5.5 Limit vandalism and graffiti by using resistant finishes, systems of quick cleaning, repair or replacement, and by appropriately limiting access. Where possible, engage likely groups in dialogue regarding alternative outlets for their creativity.
- 5.6 Engage community, business and professional groups (for example, the traders in the main street) in alliances for cooperative action to maintain the quality of the built environment.
- 5.7 Require the owners/occupiers of significant buildings (particularly those which provide landmarks, provide surveillance or define major public spaces) to maintain their buildings appropriately.
- 5.8 Regularly review the circumstances of crime to identify changing or new CPTED problems, and the effectiveness of management systems in operation and opportunities for improvements.

## 6 VULNERABILITY

Some situations and some places make people and property more vulnerable to harm than others.

For example, earlier sections have strongly suggested that having lots of people in the immediate vicinity makes for greater safety. Conversely, it is generally the case that isolated places make people and property more vulnerable. Further, hidden places provide opportunities for unforeseen crime or, in the case of personal safety, lessen the ability to avoid or otherwise respond.

The degree of risk may vary of course from day to night or from weekday to weekend.



*Reducing vulnerability with lighting*

At the same time, some people in our community may be more vulnerable than others, while some places may be more vulnerable because they promise greater possible rewards for the criminal (for example, at ATMs).

The design and management of the built environment should therefore respond thoughtfully to these greater degrees of vulnerability or risk.

## Principles

- 6A The built environment must be designed and managed to reduce or limit risk from assault by providing well-lit, active and overlooked places and pedestrian and cyclist systems and routes to important places.
- 6B The design and management of places must avoid creating or maintaining hidden spaces close to pedestrian/cyclist travel routes in the public realm, in ways that remain consistent with the purpose of the place.
- 6C The design and management of places should provide a variety of routes and other ways to avoid potential or actual problems.
- 6D The pursuit of safety should be delivered in ways consistent with the purpose of the place.



*Balancing magnificent views and vulnerability*

## Actions

- 6.1 Pay particular attention to reducing the risks associated with potentially vulnerable places such as ATMs, 24-hour shops and service stations, bus stops and post boxes or phone boxes at night, institutions where shifts end predictably (especially early in the morning), large carparks (both open and multi-level), the service parts of night-time entertainment areas, large park settings or separate pedestrian/cyclist networks.



*Public lifts with glass walls in visible places*

- 6.2 Pay particular attention to isolated or poorly-lit places, particularly where the activities and movements of people are easily predicted.
- 6.3 Design landscaping, walls, fences, buildings, passages, bridges, tunnels and street furniture (and maybe public art) to avoid hidden places close to paths or hidden corners, blind spots or bends that create places of concealment which prevent surveillance and limit choices.
- 6.4 Ensure lighting is adequate to permit surveillance and designed not to create strong shadows producing dark places (without setting out to “turn night into day” or being so excessive as to interfere with the appropriate amenity of neighbours).



*Underpasses create seriously vulnerable places*

- 6.5 Avoid where possible pedestrian/cyclist tunnels, bridges or other movement predictors (especially closed ones) which limit surveillance and response options.
- 6.6 Where vulnerable places cannot be designed, activated or actively guarded to make them sufficiently safe, be prepared to limit or preclude access to them (for example, locking up botanical gardens or some shopping arcades after hours).
- 6.7 In particularly vulnerable places, be prepared to support CPTED principles with mechanical and organised professional surveillance.



*Limiting access when and where necessary*

Chapter Seven contains several examples of more detailed CPTED approaches to vulnerable places.

As Chapter Two noted, the six Principles must be seen as constituting complementary parts of the CPTED body of knowledge. While sometimes there are competing priorities, as much as possible in any particular situation, individual Actions should not be taken in isolation. A balance should always be sought, both between parts within the CPTED body of knowledge and between that CPTED body of knowledge and other needs.





## *APPENDIX B //*

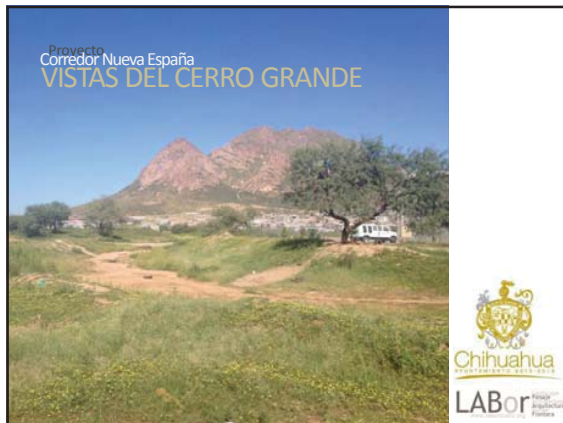
LaBOR Studio Presentation to  
Chihuahua Planning Institute

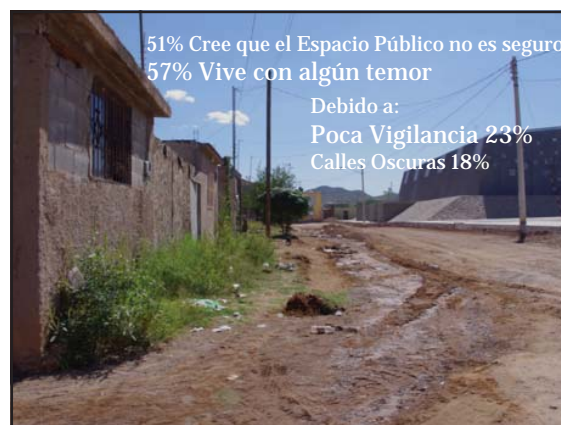
Espacio Colectivo Executive  
Summary

Auto-Ethnographic Study Packet

Travel to México City, México

IRB Approval Form







### Aspectos a Mejorar

Áreas verdes 16%  
 Pavimento 15%  
 Vigilancia 13%  
 Act. Culturales o Deportivas 11%

### 93% Cree que es corresponsabilidad de todos el cuidado del espacio público

62% No sabe qué actividades culturales, deportivas se realizan, 56% no sabe cuando, lo que se refleja en el 71% que no asisten

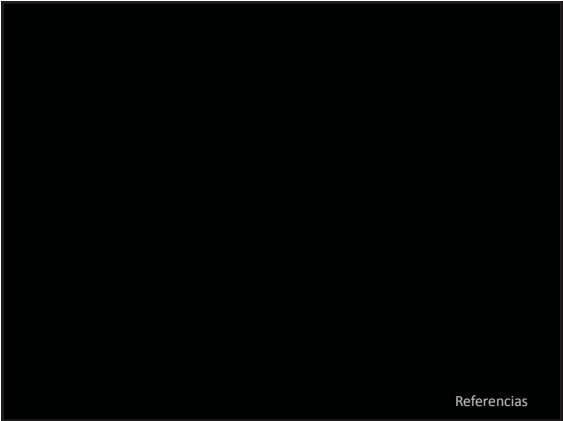
56% Le gustaría participar en proyectos de desarrollo comunitario

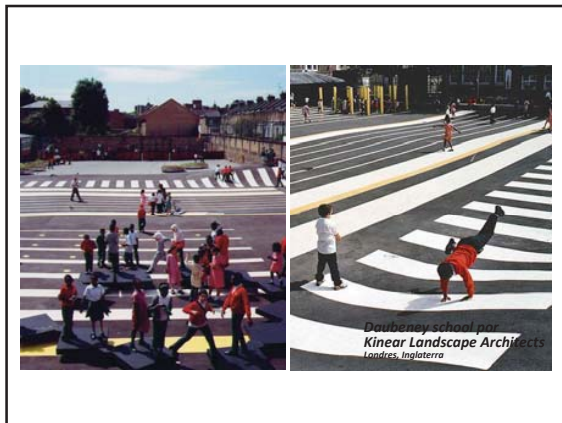
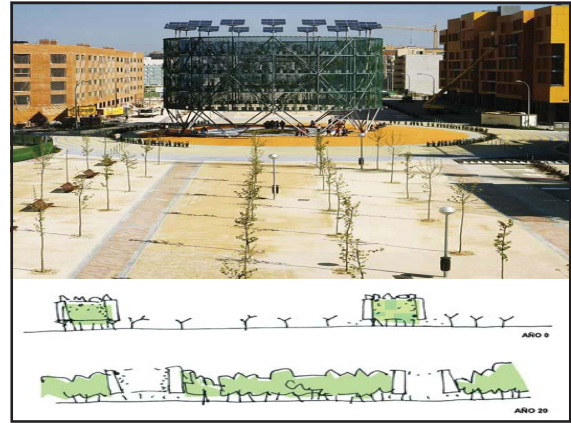


### Dinámica de Participación

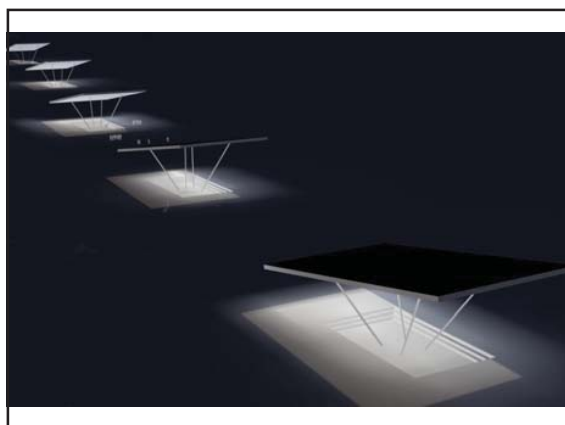
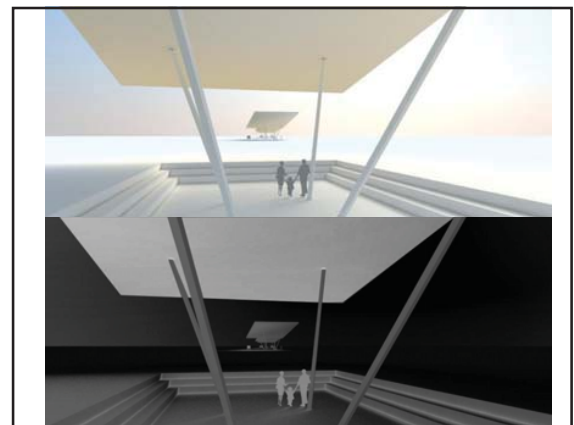
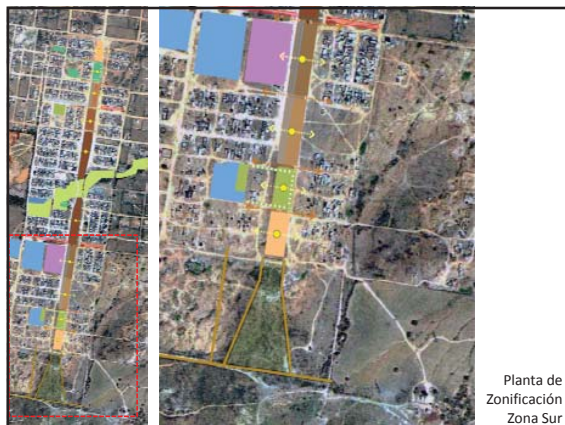
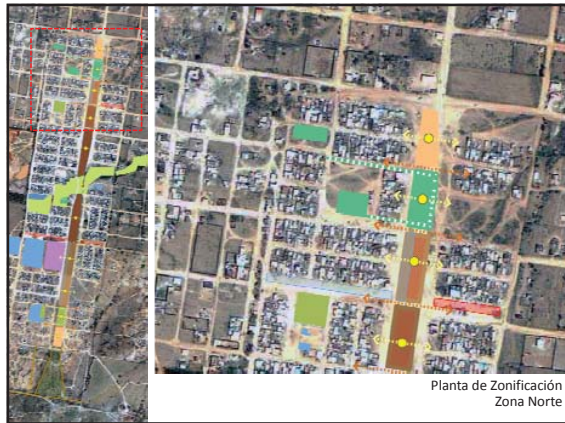
ÁRBOLES	18
BANCAS	16
MUCHO VERDE/PASTO	14
VIGILANCIA	13
ILUMINACIÓN	12
JUEGOS	9
ESPACIOS PARA BICICLETAS	7
CANCHA DE FUT	6
SALÓN DE BAILE Y USOS MÚLTIPLES	6
IGLESIA/LUGAR PARA ORAR/ESPIRITUALIDAD	6
COMERCIO	6
TALLERES DE OFICIOS PARA JOVENES	6
TALLERES PRODUCTIVOS DE MANUALIDADES	6
SALÓN DE BAILE/USOS MÚLTIPLES	6
UNA ALBERCA/PILA DE AGUA	6
ESTADIO DE BEIS	6
PÁRQUE	6
APARATOS PARA HACER EJERCICIO	6
FLORES	6
SOMBRES	6
ASADORES	6
BANOS PÚBLICOS	6
BERBERECOS	6
KIOSKO	6
CORREDOR PARA CAMINAR/PASEAR	6
SEÑALIZACIÓN	6
BOTES DE BASURA	6
REVISAR RUTAS DE CAMIONES	6
GUARDERÍAS	6
ÁREAS RECREATIVAS	6
CLASES DE AERÓBICOS	6
QUITAR EXPENDIOS	6
TOMAR EN CUENTA MAYORES Y DISCAPACITADOS	6
QUITAR A CHOLOS EN LA ZONA DEL PUENTE	6















# Diagnóstico Participativo Colonia Vistas del Cerro Grande Chihuahua, Chih. 2012

## INTRODUCCIÓN

El presente documento muestra la investigación realizada en la Colonia Vistas del Cerro Grande con el fin de proporcionar información cuantitativa y cualitativa por parte de los habitantes de dicha zona de la Ciudad de Chihuahua en relación a lo que esperan del proyecto de diseño del Corredor Recreativo en la zona de terracería Contigua a la calle Nueva España entre la calle Garambullos y C. 84, propuesto por LABor Studio, despacho de Paisaje, Arquitectura y Frontera, a cargo del Arquitecto Rodrigo Seañez Quevedo al Instituto Municipal de Planeación Chihuahua.

Según Andreas Hein (2009), el diseño del entorno urbano es el escenario en el cual se desarrolla la conducta humana por lo que relaciona directamente la calidad del espacio público con las acciones cotidianas de la gente;

*“Este (el entorno) puede facilitar o dificultar determinadas conductas así como influir la actitud de los usuarios de los espacios públicos.”*

Por tal motivo, esta investigación pretende servir como fundamento para la propuesta de programa en el Diseño Humano Integrado (DHI) del corredor, que Cárcamo (2007) define como la inclusión de las necesidades del ser humano en las fases iniciales de diseño.

La metodología que se llevó a cabo consistió de una investigación documental de la historia y características generales de la colonia; una marcha exploratoria para delimitar las condiciones en que se encuentra el espacio público actualmente; encuestas a una muestra poblacional representativa de la colonia y zonas aledañas a quienes impactaría el desarrollo del proyecto y por último, una dinámica de participación en el Centro Comunitario de Vistas de Cerro Grande así como en la Casa de un habitante de la Colonia La Soledad (contigua a VCG).

Con esta información se busca que la propuesta sea muy cercana a la realidad de la comunidad donde se implementará dicho proyecto y de esta manera se garantice el uso cotidiano del corredor.

## CONTEXTO DE LA COLONIA

### Ubicación

La colonia está ubicada al sur de la ciudad de Chihuahua, Chih., a partir de la calle Garambullos hasta la C. 84. Y entre las calles Abetos y Puerto de Mazatlán. Es muy joven, ya que su historia (oficialmente) data de a penas hace ocho años y comienza a raíz del movimiento Antorchista Campesino, (Redacción, 2012), sin embargo es una región en desarrollo. En la administración actual, el Alcalde ha realizado varios proyectos de infraestructura como las dinámicas de planeación participativa con los puentes vehiculares en las calles Álamos y Sauces, construidos en Agosto (Carreón, 2012) o la construcción del Polideportivo y el Centro Comunitario en Septiembre (S/A, 2012). Por otro lado se han organizado numerosas actividades culturales y recreativas como la Fiesta Vaquera en marzo, los talleres de lectura para los niños, así como conciertos, cine callejero como parte los Espacios Alternativos del 8vo. Festival Internacional de Chihuahua (Redacción, 2012), cabe mencionar que todo esto se ha realizado en el año en curso.

### Datos poblacionales

Según los datos del Inegi (SCINCE, 2010), la población equivalentemente mixta en cuestión de género con 1752 hombres y 1749 mujeres. A pesar de esto, las mujeres están presentes mayor parte del tiempo en la colonia ya que los hombres según comentarios de los colonos, se dedican a la obra en su mayoría y están fuera casi todo el día.

En cuanto a las edades de la población, la mayor parte esta conformada por adultos de 25 a 60 años (41.7%), seguida de los niños de 0 a 11 años (31.9%), Jóvenes de 12 a 24 (22.5%) y por último los adultos mayores que conforman solamente el 3.9% restante.

La gran mayoría (89.5%) nació en la entidad, por lo que el sentimiento de pertenencia se ve reflejado en las opiniones de las personas entrevistadas en este estudio. Por otro lado, existe un 2.2 % de personas con algún tipo de Discapacidad.

En temas de Educación, a pesar que el 95.2% de la población sabe leer y escribir, sólo 16.9% de la población cuenta con educación media superior completa, el nivel de estudios alcanzado por el 91.1% de los colonos, alcanza hasta secundaria.

Un poco más de la mitad de la población es económicamente activa (58.7%) de los cuales la mayoría son Hombres con un 79%.

Las condiciones de acceso a la información son desfavorables ya que solo el 14% de la población cuenta con computadoras e internet, aunque 96.9% tiene televisión con canales locales.

La mitad de la población (45.2 %) cuenta con automóvil para trasladarse a su trabajo fuera de la colonia.

### Percepción de la Inseguridad

Se entrevistó a Armida Trillo, Líder Ciudadano de la Colonia Vistas del Cerro Grande, así como a la Asistente de la Dirección de la Telesecundaria 6227. Ambas nos relataron que la colonia es insegura al caer la noche debido a la falta de iluminación pública, que a pesar que existe no prende o se roban los cables de cobre para venderlos. Se han suscitado

algunos crímenes violentos cerca del área de la Telesecundaria así como asaltos y delincuencia juvenil en las paradas de Camión y en el área del río.

### Transporte Público

La Colonia es atravesada por la calle Nueva España, que fue pavimentada recientemente (Redacción, 2011), y que funge como vía de acceso para transporte y servicios tanto a la colonia Vistas de Cerro Grande como a todas las colonias vecinas.

Los camiones que hacen sus rutas por la zona son el Komatsu Directo, Komatsu Inverso y Mármol. En general los habitantes están conformes con el servicio.

### MARCHA EXPLORATORIA

La marcha exploratoria es una herramienta que permite analizar el espacio público a través de los ojos de personas que son ajenas a la colonia en cuestión. Adicionalmente a sus hojas de encuesta, se les proporcionó a los encuestadores un formato en el que se les solicitaba hacer anotaciones acerca del estado del espacio público. En él, los encuestadores debían calificar diversos aspectos en cuatro categorías: características de los espacios públicos, elementos en la colonia, actividades y percepción de inseguridad (El formato puede encontrarse en el Anexo 1).

### Características del espacio público

**Accesibilidad:** Es buena. La calle Nueva España es de fácil acceso al transporte público, aunque el camión sólo transita en ciertas horas del día, debido a la inseguridad. En la parte norte de la colonia las calles son muy angostas y tienen muchos baches.

**Visibilidad:** Las calles por lo general son amplias, pero la escasa iluminación, las obras y la cantidad de escombros quitan visibilidad.

**Conectividad y movilidad:** Llegar de un lugar a otro es fácil en algunos lugares, pero la colonia en general no tiene pavimentación. El terreno deformado por las lluvias hace muy difícil que una persona con dificultad para moverse pueda transitar cómodamente por las calles. El potencial para accidentes viales es alto. Frecuentemente se encuentran escombros que estorban el tránsito, y algunos alcantarillados a desnivel en medio de la calle.

**Identidad:** Los lugares que identifican más a la colonia son su ubicación en relación con el Cerro Grande, y la calle Nueva España, sobre la cual transita el transporte público, y está junto a un amplio espacio de terracería donde se lleva a cabo la actividad del mercado todos los domingos.

**Diversidad:** La proporción entre niños, jóvenes, adultos y adultos mayores es regular. Se vieron más adultos en algunas zonas. No hay mucha gente en la calle, la mayoría prefieren quedarse en sus casas.

### Elementos de la colonia

**Iluminación:** Por lo general existe muy poco alumbrado. La iluminación fue uno de los problemas más frecuentemente detectados en las encuestas, y es notorio que es escasa. En



algunos lugares al sur de la colonia se ven postes de luz mercurial cada 50 metros aproximadamente, pero muchas personas dicen que no se utilizan en algunas partes.

**Señalización:** La señalización es muy escasa, y se encuentra en muy mal estado. Los nombres de las calles se encuentran en las banquetas y los postes, pero son virtualmente imposibles de distinguir. Carece de señalización de pasos peatonales y zonas de estacionamiento, y elementos visuales que indiquen zonas de riesgo.

**Vegetación:** Los árboles que se pueden encontrar en la colonia son escasos y están en mal estado. Existe vegetación invasiva y descontrolada en lugares descuidados como terrenos baldíos y banquetas. La sombra es escasa cuando el clima es muy soleado.

**Pavimentos:** El pavimento sólo existe en la calle Nueva España, y en la parte norte de la colonia, donde se une con el periférico Francisco R. Almada. Es difícil maniobrar vehículos por las calles. El deterioro causado por las lluvias ha dejado las calles llenas de irregularidades. No hay lugares designados para estacionamiento en las casas. Por otro lado, es una colonia muy horizontal y plana, y hay pocos desniveles.

**Mobiliario urbano:** Es inexistente, salvo por las bancas en las paradas de camión.

#### Actividades

**Arte y cultura:** Hay pocos espacios para desarrollar actividades culturales, aunque existen centros comunitarios que ofrecen clases de danza.

**Recreativos:** Existen parques con juegos recreativos para niños, aunque carecen de sombra, y están muy calientes en el mediodía en días soleados. También se realiza mucho vandalismo en estas zonas.

**Deportes:** Existen canchas de básquetbol y fútbol techados con domos, aunque necesitan mantenimiento. Existe basura tirada en el piso aunque hay botes de basura.

**Comercios:** La mayoría se encuentran en la calle principal, que es la calle Nueva España. En la parte oeste de la colonia se lleva a cabo la fabricación de ladrillos y bloques de construcción en hornos particulares. Todos los domingos se lleva a cabo la actividad del mercado en la amplia zona de terracería de la calle Nueva España, y puede verse mucha gente.

**Limpieza y mantenimiento:** Hay mucha basura y desperdicios en las calles. Las casas por lo general no tienen botes de basura en las entradas. Hay tolvaneras que se forman por la falta de pavimento, y hay mucha tierra.

#### Percepción de inseguridad:

La primera impresión que tuvieron los encuestadores del lugar es que es inseguro, que es un lugar solo, descuidado, tranquilo y sin convivencia.

**Vigilancia:** Existe patrullaje, pero casi no se ve fuera de la calle principal. Se presume que la actividad incrementa en la noche. No hay casetas ni cámaras de vigilancia. La falta de vigilancia es un problema muy concurrente en las encuestas realizadas, ya que varias personas han sido víctimas de asaltos y robos a casas.

**Vandalismo:** Es muy difícil encontrar una calle sin indicios de vandalismo. Hay muchos graffittis en las paredes y paredes rayadas. En el noroeste esto no es muy notorio.

Existen muchas casas abandonadas y escombros. Muchos terrenos baldíos. La cantidad de edificaciones descuidadas generan una percepción de inseguridad. Muchos de estos lugares podrían servir como escondites para delincuentes y como puntos de venta de drogas.

Muchas de las personas encuestadas han sido víctima de robos y asaltos. Existen algunos casos de asesinatos y violaciones. La gente prefiere quedarse en sus casas en la noche por la inseguridad.

## ENCUESTAS

Se elaboraron 250 encuestas en varios sectores de la población de acuerdo a los AGEBS colindantes con la colonia Vistas del Cerro Grande que contaban con más habitantes; agrupando los datos de la sección 1 (polígono de colonia Vistas del Cerro Grande), encuestas de los vendedores mercado dominical y el total que incluye a otras colonias aledañas a quienes impactará el proyecto. Sin embargo a continuación se muestra únicamente los porcentajes que consideran el total de la población. (Para información más específica, ver Anexo 2 y 3).

De acuerdo a lo anterior y con relación al proyecto del corredor, podemos ver que la mayoría de la población se queda en casa en su tiempo libre (37%) o sale a casa de Vecinos, esto deducimos que se debe a los problemas de inseguridad mencionados anteriormente. Otro punto importante es que el 50% de la gente respondió que se divierte en familia, ya sea jugando con los hijos o nietos, llevándolos al parque o fuera de la colonia como la Presa y la Deportiva. En segundo lugar, tenemos a la televisión que tiene que ver por un lado con la estadística de televisiones por hogar y por otro con el mismo tema de que la gente prefiere quedarse en casa.

Así mismo, el 80% de la gente vive en la colonia desde hace seis a diez años en un 32% y de uno a cinco en un 24%, lo cual también tiene relación con lo nuevo de la colonia. La gente que trabaja ahí (18%), lo hace en su mayoría desde hace uno a tres años. Nadie transita por ahí.

Por otro lado, el 80% de la gente (incluyendo a la gente que solo va a trabajar en el mercado), se siente parte de la colonia. 28% debido a sus amistadas, 24% por que tiene su casa en la colonia y 18% debido a que es un lugar tranquilo, lo cual contrasta con la percepción de inseguridad que manifiestan los colonos.

La percepción que existe de relación entre vecinos es buena en un 75%, lo cual puede facilitar el proceso de interacción en el parque para su uso y mejor aprovechamiento.

En cuanto a los problemas que se perciben en la colonia, el 38% manifiesta inseguridad debido a la violencia, peleas entre pandillas, vandalismo, entre otros conceptos, seguido en un 29% por la falta de pavimento y en un tercer lugar la deficiencia del alumbrado público. Caben mencionar otros conceptos importantes como el exceso de expendios en la colonia y los autos andando rápido y sin dirección en la terracería de la Nueva España.

Por otro lado, las ventajas son principalmente los servicios de transporte público, y agua potable en un 18% (particularmente en la colonia Vistas de Cerro Grande), seguidos por la sensación de progreso en un 14% que responde a las obras que se han dado en el último año y en tercer lugar tenemos con 14% la cercanía y fácil acceso a la ciudad igual que el 14% que piensa que las áreas recreativas en la colonia son una ventaja. Cabe mencionar que las respuestas para problemas fueron de casi tres veces la cantidad de respuestas hacia ventajas (282 vs 112), por lo que en general la gente está más inconforme con su colonia.

En cuanto al reconocimiento de los espacios públicos el 17% reconoce las escuelas, seguido por las Iglesias y el transporte público con 16% respectivamente, parques, mercados, plazas y espacios deportivos siguen con 14, 12, 10 y 9 por ciento respectivamente y es importante mencionar que el reconocimiento de espacios culturales es prácticamente inexistente con un 1%. En cuanto al uso que se le da al espacio público, lo más utilizado es el transporte público (20%), seguido por las iglesias (17%) y las escuelas y parques (15% respectivamente). La mayoría de la gente coincide en que es fácil llegar a estos espacios en un 70% de los que no lo consideran así, 81% se debe a la delincuencia que tiene relación a la falta de alumbrado público y la inseguridad de la colonia. En un 15% se refiere a la distancia y el 4% restante a la mala calidad del espacio público (falta de banquetas, calles desiguales).

La mayoría de la gente respondió que los niños se reúnen en las calles y los parques (39 y 36 por ciento), los jóvenes se reúnen en la calle 48%, los adultos y adultos mayores se reúnen en las casas (42%), por lo que sería conveniente que el espacio público se dirija a niños y jóvenes y que invite a salir a los adultos y adultos mayores.

En cuanto a la percepción de inseguridad, concretamente el 51% de la población considera que el espacio público es inseguro debido a delincuencia en general y el 57% vive con temor de ser víctima de la delincuencia. Las razones principales de esta inseguridad es la falta de vigilancia, falta de alumbrado y delincuencia en un 23, 18 y 14% respectivamente. Y los delitos más presentes en la percepción de la gente son robos (27%), vandalismo (20%) y temas de drogas (19%). Lo que les gustaría mejorar en la colonia son las áreas verdes, el pavimento, la vigilancia y las actividades culturales en un 42%.

Los colonos coinciden en un 93% que es una corresponsabilidad entre Autoridades y Vecinos el cuidado del espacio público. El 38% de la gente dice que el espacio público es para divertirse, seguido del 37% que dice que es para entretenerse y seguido en un porcentaje mucho menor, el 12% dice que es para actividades culturales.

Las actividades que se realizan en la colonia son en un 55% deportivas, seguidas de cursos en un 17% y otras variadas en un 11% como conciertos, clases de box, rodeos. El 71% de la gente no asiste, en su mayoría por que no se entera. Las actividades que propone la gente son en un 36% deportivas, torneos y 19% actividades culturales.

El lugar más representativo de la colonia es la calle Nueva España, por lo que el proyecto tiene buenas probabilidades de ser bien recibido. Por otro lado, el 56% de los colonos está dispuesto a participar voluntariamente en proyectos comunitarios, lo que se puede aprovechar para activar el espacio público e incrementar su aceptación.

En cuanto a comentarios generales, el 20% se refiere a que apoya el proyecto y está agradecido, seguidos por 13% respectivamente para mejorar pavimentos y áreas verdes y 9% respectivamente para combatir la inseguridad y darle seguimiento a este estudio y proyecto de participación (Los resultados totales graficados se encuentran en el anexo 4).



## DINAMICA DE PARTICIPACIÓN

Para esta actividad, se preparó un plano del polígono central con lugares representativos señalados por medio de íconos, en los cuales se pediría a los participantes que indicaran información general de pertinencia para el proyecto. También se llevaron hojas blancas y plumones de colores con la intención de que los colonos dibujaran o manifestaran por medio de una lista escrita lo que quisieran encontrar en el parque.

En coordinación con la Líder Ciudadana Armida Trillo, se asistió al centro comunitario de Vistas de Cerro Grande el día **XX de Octubre** del 2012 para pedir la opinión de los habitantes reunidos ahí respecto a lo que podría contener el parque. En el lugar los asistentes a las clases de Manualidades para adultos mayores, fútbol, Béisbol, Box, y Reparación de Electrodomésticos nos comunicaron de manera voluntaria, información acerca de las zonas donde existen huellas de crímenes pasados, zonas que actualmente son peligrosas y las posibles razones así como lugares representativos de la colonia donde se realizan actividades diversas.

Posterior a esta dinámica, el **XX de Octubre** del mismo año, y en coordinación con la Líder Ciudadana de las colonias Palmares, Soledad y Cuauhtémoc, Brenda Enríquez, se asistió a la casa de Don Enrique **Gardea**, donde se reunieron habitantes de estas colonias (casi en su totalidad mujeres), dándonos información similar a la anterior, pero desde la perspectiva de otra zona. Nos mostraron así mismo un terreno que les donaron recientemente donde tenían la intención de construir un salón de usos múltiples y/o parque con juegos infantiles donde organizar actividades para los habitantes de estas colonias.

Como resultado, encontramos información mas subjetiva sobre lo que los colonos quieren de su espacio público. A continuación se muestran los conceptos y el número de repeticiones que hubo en los dibujos (Los dibujos pueden encontrarse en el anexo 5)

## CONCLUSIONES

Por medio de la Investigación presentada, pudimos percatarnos que la prioridad para el diseño del corredor es combatir la inseguridad que se presenta al anochecer gracias a la falta de iluminación que existe en la zona de terracería contigua a la calle Nueva España. Por otro lado, la aridez de la zona es muy intensa por lo se pide una solución en función de la vegetación y pavimentación o que al menos solucione la protección del sol y del polvo en tiempo de tolvaneras.

De la población en general, nos percatamos de la existencia de cerca de 10 expendios en la zona central de la colonia, que afectan a los jóvenes ya que no existen muchas oportunidades de esparcimiento, con lo que varios ciudadanos se manifestaron al respecto. Sin embargo, otro dato importante, es que las familias son unidas en esta zona por lo que se solicitan áreas deportivas o que mantengan a niños y jóvenes ocupados en horarios fuera de clase.

Por otro lado, el fenómeno del mercado dominical impacta de manera directa a los habitantes ya que según las encuestas y entrevistas, muchos hacen un medio de recibir ingresos en esta actividad, con lo que el proyecto debe considerar una solución al respecto. No es que se fomente el comercio informal, pero se debe regular u organizar para que exista en beneficio de la gente. Algunos incluso proponen talleres o puestos comerciales en el corredor para el autoempleo de discapacitados y adultos mayores.

La zona cercana al río es un foco de delincuencia, por lo que se debe diseñar una estrategia que no sólo combata inseguridad sino que borre la huella criminal que existe para que los habitantes puedan salir a la calle sin temor.

Otros datos importantes son los recabados fuera de la Colonia Vistas del Cerro Grande donde los habitantes sienten muy fuerte la división territorial dándonos a entender que lo que se construye en esta zona es exclusivo de los habitantes de VCG, por lo que la dinámica ayudo en cierta forma a incluir a población externa a la colonia en el desarrollo del corredor para fomentar el uso del mismo.

Por último, cabe mencionar que el diseño del corredor tomando en cuenta la opinión de los habitantes a quienes impactará es sólo el inicio de la labor de este proyecto. Hace falta diseñar los programas de seguimiento y activación del espacio público para asegurar el apropiamiento de este espacio e impactar más profundamente la vida cotidiana de la gente.

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## PARTICIPATORY DIAGNOSIS FOR CERRA VISTAS GRANDE, A NEIGHBORHOOD IN CHIHUAHUA, CHIHUAHUA, 2012 – *Spanish to English translation*

### INTRODUCTION

[...]

For this reason, this investigation will serve as the foundation for a programming proposal in the design of the corridor, that Carcamo (2007) will inform and define the human needs to be included in the initial design phases.

The methodology used consists of documenting the story and general characteristics of the community (colonia); a mechanism for exploring the current site conditions as they actually exist; surveys that represent the colony population and adjacent areas that might impact the project development; and finally, a meeting at the community center to hear the perspectives of the people, as well as in the private homes of the “Colony of Loneliness.”

With this information we will search for a proposal that addresses the realities of this community, allowing implementation to occur and ensuring that daily uses can continue along the corridor.

### NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT:

#### LOCATION

The colony is located south of the city of Chihuahua. The colony is very young, as its history dates back no more than eight years ago (beginning with the “Antorchista Campesino” movement). However, this is a region currently in development. The current mayor has finished various infrastructure projects, like vehicular bridges on Poplar (Alamos) and Willow (Sauces) Streets, which included participatory planning processes and were recently built in August (Carreon, 2012); among other projects, like the construction of the public Sports and Community Center (Polideportivo y el Centro Comunitario) in September (S/A, 2012). Furthermore, numerous cultural and recreation activities have been organized, such as the Fiesta Vaquera (cowgirl party) in March, reading workshops for children, concerts, and street theatre events during los Espacios Alternativos 8<sup>th</sup> Festival Internacional de Chihuahua (Redaccion, 2012). It is worth mentioning that all of this has occurred only in the past year.

#### POPULATION DATA

- According to the data from Inegi (SCINE, 2012), the population is an equal mix of males and females, with 1,752 men and 1,749 women. Despite this, women are present most of the time in the neighborhood so that the men can go to work, who are mostly out all day.
- As the population ages, the majority is made up of adults 25 to 60 years (41.7%), followed by children aged 0 to 11 years (31.9%), youth 12 to 24 (22.5%) and finally seniors, who make up only 3.9% of the population.



- The vast majority (89.5%) were born in the state, so a sense of belonging is reflected in the views of the people interviewed in this study. On the other hand, 2.2% of the people have some type of disability(???).
- In terms of education, although 95.2% of the population is literate only 16.9% of the population has completed post-secondary education. The level of education attained by 91.1% of the settlers is just through high school.
- A little over half of the population is economically active (58.7%) of which the majority is men (79%).
- The electrical access conditions are not reliable information, since only 14% of the population have computers and internet, although 96.9% have local television channels.
- Half of the population (45.2%) have a car to travel to work outside the colony.

#### PERCEPTION OF INSECURITY

We interviewed Armida Trillo, a city leader of the Colonia Vistas del Cerro Grande, and the (???). Both reported that the colony is insecure after dark due to a lack of public lighting (although the infrastructure exists, it is not always turned on, or the copper cables have been stolen and sold). Some violent crimes have occurred near the area de la Telesecundaria, as well as some assaults and acts of juvenile delinquency in truck stops and near the river area.

#### PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

La Colonia is cut by the street New Spain, which was recently paved (Redaccion, 2011), and serves as an access to transport and services for the Cerro Grande colony, as well as all the neighboring colonies.

The trucks that make their routes through the area are the Direct Komatsu, Komatsu Inverse and Marble. Generally people are unhappy with the service.

#### SITE ANALYSIS:

The analysis from March is a tool for analyzing the public space, especially for the people who are outside of the colony in question. In the distributed survey participants were asked to make notes about the state of the public space. The participants were asked to rate diverse aspects in four categories: characteristics of public spaces, elements of the colony, activities and perceptions of insecurity (the format is available in Appendix 1).

#### CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PUBLIC SPACES

- ACCESSIBILITY: The accessibility is good. The street New Spain (Nueva Espana) is easy to access public transportation from, although the truck is only available to ride at certain hours of the day due to a lack of security. In the north part of the colony the streets are very narrow and have many potholes.
- VISIBILITY: In general the streets are spacious, but poor lighting, poor maintenance, and the amount of debris decrease visibility.

CONNECTIVITY AND MOBILITY: Getting from one place to another is easy in some places, but in general there is no pavement in the colony. The terrain is deformed by rain, which makes it difficult for a person with mobile disabilities to traverse comfortably through the streets. The potential for road accidents is high. Debris often impedes the passage, and some sewer pipes cut through the middle of the street.

- **IDENTITY:** The places that the community identifies the most with (in relation to location) are the Cerro Grande, the street New Spain (where the public transit is located), and a large dirt area adjacent to New Spain, where the market takes place every Sunday.
- **DIVERSITY:** The proportion between children, youth, adults and seniors is regular. There were more adults in some zones. There are not many people on the street, because most prefer to stay in their homes.

#### ELEMENTS OF THE COLONY

- **LIGHTING:** In general, the lighting is very poor. The lighting was a problem that occurred frequently in the surveys, making it a very apparent problem. In some places south of the colony there are light poles every 50 meters (approximately), but many people say that they are not used in some parts of the area.
- **SIGNAGE:** The signage is very poor, and what exists is in very poor condition. The street names are on the sidewalks and posts, but they are virtually indistinguishable. There is no signage at crosswalks and parking areas, and there are no visual elements that indicate risk areas.
- **VEGETATION:** The trees that can be found in the colony are few and in poor condition. There is uncontrolled invasive vegetation, especially in neglected places like vacant lots and sidewalks. Shade is scarce when the sun is out.
- **SIDEWALKS:** The only street with sidewalks is Nueva Espana, and in northern parts of the colony, along Francisco R. Almada. It is difficult for pedestrians to maneuver vehicles in the streets. The damage caused by the rains has left the streets full of irregularities. There are no designated parking spaces in front of the homes. On the other hand, the land is very horizontal and flat, with very few slopes.
- **SITE FURNITURE:** Site furniture is nonexistent, save for the benches at truck stops.

#### ACTIVITIES

- **ART AND CULTURE:** There are few spaces for cultural activities, although there are community centers that offer dance classes.
- **RECREATION:** There are parks with playgrounds for children, although most do not have any shade and are very hot at midday (especially on sunny days). There has also been a lot of vandalism in these areas.
- **SPORTS:** There are basketball courts and soccer fields, but these areas need maintenance. There is trash lying on the floor although garbage cans are available.
- **SHOPS:** Most of the stores are located in the main street, which is Nueva Espana. West of the colony, there is a place where they make bricks and other building blocks (for construction) in

special ovens. On every Sunday there is a market, held in the wide area of the unpaved road Nueva Espana, where many people can be seen about.

- **CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE:** There is a lot of trash and garbage in the streets. The houses usually do not have trash cans at their entrances. Since there is little pavement, dust clouds are formed from the great amount of exposed soil.

#### PERCEPTIONS OF INSECURITY

The first impression that is sensed in the place is that it's unsafe, and a lonely, neglected, and quiet neighborhood without people living there.

- **SURVEILLANCE:** There are patrols, but rarely are they seen outside of the main street area. It is presumed that activity increases in the evening. There are no booths or surveillance cameras. The lack of supervision is very recurrent in the surveys, as several people have been victims of assaults and burglaries.
- **VANDALISM:** It's very difficult to find a street without any signs of vandalism. There is a lot of graffiti on the exterior walls. Vandalism is not as noticeable in the northwest region of the colony.

There are many abandoned houses and other debris. Many vacant lots. The amount of neglected buildings creates a perception of insecurity. Many of these could serve as hiding places for criminals and as drug outlets.

Many of the survey respondents have been victims of robberies and assaults. There are some cases of murder and rape. People prefer to stay home at night because of the lack of security.

#### **SURVEYS:**

250 surveys were handed out in various sectors of the population, within the census tracts areas bordering the Vistas del Cerro Grande colony; for example, section 1 data was gathered from Sunday market vendors and other neighboring colonies that may impact the project. The information presented below considers the population in its entirety (for more information see Appendix 2 and 3).

According to the above, we can see that the majority of the population stays home in their spare time (37%) or go to a neighbor's house, likely because of security problems discussed in previous sections. Another important point is that 50% of people said during their spare time they enjoy having fun as a family (such as playing with children or grandchildren, taking the children to the park or outside the colony to the dam and/or to play/watch sports). This is conflicting, as the data suggests that the majority of households own a television and most people prefer to stay home.

Likewise, 80% of people have lived in the colony for six to ten years, 32% for one to five, and 24% are relatively new to the colony. The people who work there (18%) have mostly done so for one to three years. No one travels through there on transit.



On the other hand, 80% of the population (including people who go to work in the market) feel that they are part of the neighborhood. 28% say this sense of belonging is due to friendships. 24% of the people have a home in the neighborhood, and 18% believe the neighborhood is a quiet place, which is in contrast to the perception of prevalent perception of insecurity.

75% believe that the relationship between neighbors is good, which will help facilitate interactions in the park and better use.

As for the perceived problems in the colony, 38% expressed insecurity due to violence, gang fights, vandalism, among other items; this is followed by 29% caused by the lack of pavement, and third is concerns about lighting deficiencies. It is worth mentioning other important characteristics of the community, such as excessive liquor stores in the colony and speeding cars on the dirt road which is New Spain.

Furthermore, the main community benefits include public transportation services, and the availability of potable water in 18% of the households (particularly in Cerro Grande Vistas). Second, there is also a sense of progress in public works just over the last year. Third, 14% are in proximity and/or have easy access to the city; 14% also think that the recreation areas in the neighborhood are positive. It should be noted that the answers to problems were almost three times the number of responses to benefits (282 vs 112), so in general people are more dissatisfied than pleased with their colony.

Regarding the acknowledgement/affirmation of public spaces:

- 17% recognized schools
- 16% recognized churches
- 16% recognized public transportation
- 14% recognized parks
- 12% recognized markets
- 10% recognized plazas
- 9% recognized places for sports
- 1% recognized cultural spaces (virtually nonexistent)

The public space is apportioned as follows (based on community responses):

- 20% is used for public transportation
- 17% is used for churches
- 15% is used for parks

The majority of people agree that it is easy to get to these public areas (70%). Of those who agree that it is easy to get to these public spaces, 81% say that crime is due to the lack of street lighting and the general insecurity of the neighborhood. 15% refer to the distance [from the city center] as a cause of crime, and the remaining 4% to the poor quality of public spaces (ie: the lack of sidewalks, and uneven streets).

Most people said that the children gather in the streets and parks (39 and 36 percent), young people gather on the street (48%), and adults and seniors gather in homes (42%). The public space should be designed for children and young people, and should encourage adults and seniors to come outdoors.

As for the perception of insecurity, 51% of the population believes that public space is unsafe due to general crime, and 57% live in fear of being a victim of crime. The main reasons for this fear is the lack of surveillance, 23% [eyes on the street], the lack of lighting (18%), and crime (14%). The crimes that are most perceived by the population include theft (27%), vandalism (20%), and drug related crimes (19%). The items that need the most improvement/development are the green areas, pavement, surveillance, and cultural activities (by 42%).

93% of the residents agree that keeping care of the public spaces is a shared responsibility for both the authorities and the neighbors. 38% of the people say that the public spaces are used for fun activities, 37% say the use is for entertainment, and 12% say the use is for cultural activities.

The activities in the colony are 55% sports, 17% classes/workshops, 11% various concerts, boxing classes, and rodeos. 71% of the people do not attend these activities, mostly because no one knows they are occurring. The activities desired by the people are sports tournaments (36%) and cultural activities (19%).

The most representative space of the colony is the street New Spain, so the Cerro Vistas Grande project has a good chance of being well-received. 56% of the residents are willing to volunteer in community projects, which can be utilized to activate the public space and increase its acceptance by the population.

As far as general comments, 20% of the comments support the project and reflect gratitude, followed by 13% who expressed pavements and green area improvements, and finally 9% want to combat insecurity and follow up on this study and participation project (the overall results are available in Appendix 4).

#### **PARTICIPATION DYNAMICS:**

For this activity, a plan was prepared delineating the representative sites identified by icons in which participants would be asked to indicate general information relevant to the project. Blank sheets and colored markers were also distributed, which allowed residents to draw or write lists of things they would want in a park.

In coordination with Armida Trillo, a community leader, a meeting was arranged at the community center of Cerro Grande on the twentieth of October 2012 to ask the people what they wanted to see designed in their neighborhood and park. In attendance were seniors interested in craft classes, soccer, baseball, boxing, and appliance repair. They told us about areas where there are traces of crime, areas that are currently dangerous, and possible reasons and locations for diverse neighborhood activities and public spaces.

After this meeting, on the twentieth of October of the same year (and in coordination with citizen leaders from Palmares, Soledad and Cuauhtemoc), Brenda Enriquez attended the home of Don Enrique

Gardea, where they met people of these colonies (almost all women). These women had similar responses and comments to the concerns listed above, but were speaking from the perspective of a different area. Don Enrique showed us a parcel of land recently donated their family, where they intended to build a multipurpose room and/or park with a playground and space for neighborhood activities.

As a result, much of the information contained in this summary is subjective information describing what the residents want in their public spaces. Below are the design concepts and a number of repeated ideas that occurred in the community drawings (drawings can be found in Appendix 5).

### **CONCLUSIONS:**

Through the research gathered, we realized that the priority for the design of the corridor is fighting insecurity that occurs at night due to the lack of lighting in the area in the dirt roads next to Nueva España. Moreover, the dryness of the area is very intense, which calls for a vegetation and paving solution for protection from sun and dust storms.

There are about 10 liquor stores in the central area of the colony, which affect young people who do not have many opportunities for recreation (which many citizens expressed concern about). However, another important fact is that families are united in this area; sports areas are requested, and families want to keep young children busy outside of class.

Moreover, the phenomenon of the Sunday market directly impacts the people and is reflected in the surveys and interviews. Many receive only half of the income they need from being a market vendor, so the project should consider a solution to this aspect. Not that informal trade is encouraged, but it must be regulated or be arranged in such a way that benefits the people. Some even offer workshops or self-employment commercial positions to the disabled and elderly residents living along the corridor.

The area near the river is a hotbed for crime, so a strategy to combat insecurity and clear the criminal footprint must be implemented, so residents can go outside without fear.

Other important data has been collected outside the Colonia Cerro Vistas Grande, in which people feel very strong territorial division that what is built in this area is exclusive to the people of VCG. Instead, this dynamic must be modified into a more inclusive atmosphere that invites people outside the colony to participate in the development and use of the corridor.

Finally, note that the design of the corridor must take into account the views of the people who are impacted by this project. But this is only the beginning of the work of this project. We need to design monitoring programs and activation of public space to ensure the appropriation of this space and deeper impact the daily lives of people. We need to design monitoring programs and activate public spaces to ensure the appropriate use of this space and the deeper impact on quality of life.



***What do you like about your neighborhood, Vistas del Cerro Grande? What would you change?***

*Here's your chance to let your community know.*

I am inviting you to participate in a special research project that will improve streets and public spaces in your neighborhood, Vistas del Cerro Grande. To accomplish this project, I need *your* help! Since I am an outsider to your community, I do not know what you like to do in your free-time, where you like to hang out with your family and friends, or even what you want to be when you grow up. All of these things are important for me to know, so that I help make the streets and parks in your neighborhood the best places to spend time outdoors.

***Instructions***

Your class will divide into ten groups, each with three students. Your group will receive one camcorder for your assignment. Using the map provided, you will follow the route and record as a team what you think about the streets, public spaces, buildings, people, and environment. You can talk about anything you want to while the camera is rolling!

On the map, there are seven specific places where your group must stop and record your thoughts. These locations include:

- Four bus stops
- The gymnasium and pool
- The community center
- El arroyo

At each of these locations, please answer the following questions as a group:

- What do you think about the quality of the buildings and landscape at this location? What are positive characteristics of this location, and what are negative characteristics of this location?
- What kind of activities do you like to participate in at this location, inside and outside?
- Who do you visit this location with, if anyone? Do you spend time here with family or friends, or do you come here alone?
- Do you feel safe at this location during the daytime and nighttime?

After you finish the route and visit all seven locations in Vistas del Cerro Grande, please return your camcorder to your teacher. The circuit should not take any longer than 90 minutes to complete. I will collect the camcorders from your teacher later this week.

*Thank you for your help and participation!*

***Auto-Ethnography Instructions***

*Fifth and sixth grade students were provided an instructional packet for the field study and video documentation.*

### ***¿Que te gusta de tu Colonia “Vistas del Cerro Grande”? ¿Qué cambiarías?***

*Esta es tu oportunidad de hacerlo saber a tu comunidad.*

Te invito a participar en un proyecto especial de investigación que ayudara a mejorar las calles y los espacios públicos en tu comunidad, Vistas del Cerro Grande. Para llevar a cabo este proyecto, ¡Necesito de tu ayuda! Dado que soy un forastero en tu comunidad, no sé que es lo que te gusta hacer en tu tiempo libre, donde te gusta pasar el tiempo con tu familia y amigos, o incluso que es lo que te gustaría ser cuando seas mayor. Para mi es importante saber todas estas cosas, para así poder hacer las calles y los parques de tu comunidad, los mejores lugares para pasar el tiempo al aire libre.

#### ***Instrucciones***

Su clase se va a dividir en 10 grupos, cada uno de 3 alumnos. Cada grupo va a recibir una cámara-grabadora. Usando el mapa provisto, seguirán la ruta y grabaran en forma de equipo, lo que piensan de las calles, espacios públicos, edificios, gente, y entorno (alrededores). ¡Pueden hablar de lo que ustedes quieran mientras la cámara este grabando!

En el mapa hay 7 lugares específicos donde tu grupo deberá detenerse y grabar sus opiniones. Dichas locaciones son:

- 4 paradas de autobús.
- El gimnasio y alberca.
- El centro comunitario.
- El arroyo.

En cada uno de estos lugares, por favor contesten en equipo las siguientes preguntas:

- ¿Que opinas de la calidad de los edificios y el paisaje en esta área?
- ¿Que cualidades tiene este lugar, y cuales son sus defectos?
- ¿Que clase de actividades te gusta realizar en esta área?
- ¿Con quien sueles venir a este lugar? ¿Pasas tiempo aquí con tu familia y amigos, o vienes tu solo/a?
- ¿Te sientes seguro/a en esta área durante el día/ durante la noche?

Después de que terminen la ruta y visiten todas las 7 locaciones en Vistas del Cerro Grande, por favor regresen la cámara-grabadora a su maestro/a. El circuito no debería tomarles más de 90 minutos en completarlo. Yo pasare por las cámara-grabadoras con su maestro/a mas tarde esta semana.

***¡MUCHAS GRACIAS POR SU AYUDA!***

#### ***Auto-Ethnography Instructions, in Spanish***

*The instructions provided to the students. Following the route, students answered questions about the site.*





PARADA DE  
AUTOBÚS

GIMNASIO Y PISCINA

PARADA DE  
AUTOBÚS

EL ARROYO

TU  
ESCUELA



EMPIEZA  
AQUÍ

PARADA DE  
AUTOBÚS

CENTRO  
COMUNITARIO

PARADA DE  
AUTOBÚS

COL. VISTAS CERRO GRANDE



## KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY INFORMED CONSENT FORM

**PROJECT TITLE:** Social Streets: Using Purpose-Oriented Streetscape Amenities and Programming to Enhance Adolescent Development in Mexico

**APPROVAL DATE OF PROJECT:** 12/03/2012 **EXPIRATION DATE OF PROJECT:** 12/03/2013

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Huston Gibson

**CO-INVESTIGATOR(S):** Lauren Ewald, Fernando Bujaidar Teruel

**CONTACT NAME AND PHONE FOR ANY PROBLEMS/QUESTIONS:** Lauren Ewald, +1(913) 314-7580

**IRB CHAIR CONTACT/PHONE INFORMATION:**

- Rick Scheidt, Chair, Committee on Research Involving Human Subjects, 203 Fairchild Hall, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506, United States of America, +1(785) 532-3224.
- Jerry Jaax, Associate Vice President for Research Compliance and University Veterinarian, 203 Fairchild Hall, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS, 66506, United States of America, +1(785) 532-3224.

**SPONSOR OF PROJECT:**

LABOR Studio, Rodrigo Seañez Quevedo and Gabriel Díaz Montemayor  
College of Architecture, Planning and Design at Kansas State University//Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional and Community Planning

**PURPOSE OF THE RESEARCH:**

This is a research project that will benefit Colonia Vistas del Cerro Grande. The project will provide evidence-based design strategies to specifically improve children's quality of life, particularly in public spaces.

**PROCEDURES TO BE USED:**

As an outsider to your community, I am learning about your culture and daily lives by observing your actions and emotions. Your class will divide into ten groups, each with three students. Your group will receive one camcorder for your assignment. Using the map provided, you will follow the route and record as a team what you think about the streets, public spaces, buildings, people, and environment. The researchers will use the video footage that the students produce to make appropriate recommendations for improving the public spaces in your neighborhood.

**Media release: Do you give the researcher permission to publish photographs or video footage that you appear in, in any format (verbal or visual communications)?**

☐

YES

☐

NO

**LENGTH OF STUDY:**

The length of participation will be approximately 90 minutes.

**RISKS OR DISCOMFORTS ANTICIPATED:**

**BENEFITS ANTICIPATED:**

The document produced from this study will be written to improve the physical characteristics of the streetscape scene and adjacent public spaces, but will also bolster the children's quality of life living in this area. Stakeholders, city planners, and politicians will have access to the final research report; potentially leading to further investments and project implementation.

**EXTENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY:**

Each participant will have the option to disclose information under their actual name or a pseudonym. If you do not choose to use a pseudonym at this time, you can indicate at any time that you prefer to use a pseudonym, without penalty. All consent forms will not be revealed to anyone, and will be retained by the Principal Investigator for three years following the completion of the study.

***Should information that you share be used in the final research document, do you wish to substitute a pseudonym for your actual name?***

☐

YES

☐

NO

**PARENTAL APPROVAL FOR MINORS:** If you are under the age of 18, you are required to obtain parental consent. A parent or guardian signature below gives your child permission to participate in this research study.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*PRINTED parent/guardian name*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Parent/guardian SIGNATURE*

**TERMS OF PARTICIPATION:**

**I understand this project is research, and that my participation is completely voluntary. I also understand that if I decide to participate in this study, I may withdraw my consent at any time, and stop participating at any time without explanation, penalty, or loss of benefits to which I may otherwise be entitled.**

**I verify that my signature below indicates that I have read and understand this consent form, and willingly agree to participate in this study under the terms described, and that my signature acknowledges that I have received a signed and dated copy of this consent form.**

**Participant Name:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Participant Signature:**

\_\_\_\_\_

*Participant SIGNATURE (if 18 years  
of age or older)*

**Date:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY  
FORMULARIO DE APROBACION INFORMADA.**

**TÍTULO DEL PROYECTO:** Social Streets: Using Purpose-Oriented Streetscape Amenities and Programming to Enhance Adolescent Development in Mexico

**FECHA DE APROBACIÓN DEL PROYECTO:** 12/03/2012

**FECHA DE VENCIMIENTO DEL PROYECTO:** 12/03/2013

**INVESTIGADOR PRINCIPAL:** Huston Gibson

**ASISTENTE DE INVESTIGADOR:** Lauren Ewald, Fernando Bujaidar Teruel

**NUMEROS DE CONTACTO PARA CUALQUIER PROBLEMA O PREGUNTA:**

Lauren Ewald, +1(913) 314-7580 Fernando Bujaidar +52-1-6141-964029

**IRB PRESIDENCIA CONTACTO/ NOMBRE Y TELEFONO:**

- Rick Scheidt, Presidente del Comité para la Investigación con Seres Humanos, 203 Fairchild Hall, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506, United States of America, +1(785) 532-3224.
- Jerry Jaax, Vicepresidente Asociado de Investigación y Cumplimiento Veterinario Universidad, 203 Fairchild Hall, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506, United States of America, +1(785) 532-3224.

**PATROCINADOR DEL PROYECTO:**

LABOR Studio, Rodrigo Seañez Quevedo y Gabriel Díaz Montemayor

Facultad de Arquitectura, Planeamiento y Diseño de la Kansas State University// Departamento de Arquitectura del Paisaje y Planificación Regional y Comunitaria

**OBJETO DE LA INVESTIGACIÓN:**

Este es un proyecto de investigación que beneficiará a la zona de la Colonia Vistas del Cerro Grande. El proyecto proporcionará pruebas basadas en el diseño de estrategias para mejorar específicamente la calidad de vida infantil, en particular en los espacios públicos.

**PROCEDIMIENTOS QUE SE UTILIZARÁN:**

Si usted está interesado en participar podríamos reunirnos en persona para conversar. La conversación variará dependiendo de la persona. Su clase se va a dividir en 10 grupos, cada uno de 3 alumnos. Cada grupo va a recibir una cámara-grabadora. Usando el mapa provisto, seguirán la ruta y grabarán en forma de equipo, lo que piensan de las calles, espacios públicos, edificios, gente, y entorno (alrededores). Los investigadores utilizarán el material de video producido por los alumnos para proporcionar recomendaciones adecuadas concernientes a la mejora de su comunidad.

**Me gustaría saber si puedo tener su permiso para usar fotografía o video en los que usted aparece; para poder publicar esta información en cualquier medio de comunicación.**

☐ SÍ

☐ NO



**RIESGOS O MOLESTIAS ANTICIPADA:**

No anticipo riesgos físicos, psicológicos o sociales. Sin embargo, los participantes en la investigación podrán retirar ellos mismos y/o información documentada en cualquier momento y por cualquier motivo, sin penalización.

**BENEFICIOS ANTICIPADA:**

El documento producido a partir de este estudio se escribirá para mejorar las características físicas de la escena del paisaje urbano y los espacios públicos adyacentes. Y reforzará la calidad de vida de los niños en esta zona. Todas las partes interesadas, urbanistas y políticos tendrán acceso al informe final de la investigación; y esta investigación podrá tener nuevas inversiones y la ejecución de nuevas ideas.

**MEDIDA DE CONFIDENCIALIDAD:**

Cada participante tiene la opción de divulgar la información bajo su nombre real o un seudónimo. Si usted desea no usar su nombre verdadero en cualquier momento durante la plática puede indicarnos y no habrá ningún problema al respeto. Todos los formularios de consentimiento no serán revelados a nadie, y serán retenidos por el investigador principal por tres años a partir de la finalización del estudio.

**Si la información que se comparte se utiliza en el documento final de la investigación, ¿desea sustituir un seudónimo para su nombre real?**

☐

SÍ

☐

NO

**APROBACIÓN DE LOS PADRES PARA MENORES DE EDAD:** Si usted es menor de 18 años, requerimos consentimiento de sus padres o tutor legal. La firma del padre o tutor legal abajo da permiso a su hijo a participar en este estudio de investigación.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*IMPRESO padre / tutor legal nombre*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*padre / tutor legal FIRMA*

**CONDICIONES DE PARTICIPACIÓN:**

Entiendo que este proyecto es una investigación, y que mi participación es completamente voluntaria. También entiendo que si decido participar en este estudio, puedo retirar mi consentimiento en cualquier momento y dejar de participar en cualquier momento sin explicación, sanción o pérdida de beneficios a los que de otro modo pudiera tener derecho.

Confirmando que mi firma abajo indica que he leído y entendido este formulario de consentimiento y voluntariamente acepta participar en este estudio, en los términos descritos, y que mi firma reconoce que he recibido una copia firmada y fechada de este formulario de consentimiento.

Nombre del Participante: \_\_\_\_\_

**Community Center Fliers**

*In the event that the teachers did not want to participate in the study, the back-up plan involved recruiting volunteers at the community center and gymnasium using posters.*

► (Ewald, 2013)

*Atencion niños y adolescentes de primaria, secundaria y preparatoria:*

# ¿QUE TE GUSTA DE TU COLONIA, VISTAS DEL CERRO GRANDE?

## ¿QUE CAMBIARIAS?

→ Aquí esta tu oportunidad de hacerlo saber a tu comunidad.

### ¿Quienes?

Niños y adolescentes de primaria, secundaria y preparatoria.

### ¿Cuándo?

Sábado 5 de Enero, a partir de las 3 de la tarde.

### ¿Donde?

Te puedes registrar en el Centro Comunitario, y el día del experimento, pregunta ahí mismo por Fernando.

### ¿De que se trata?

Te invitamos a participar en un proyecto de investigación especial que ayudara a mejorar las calles y espacios públicos en tu colonia. Para llevar a cabo este proyecto, ¡Necesitamos de tu ayuda! Utilizando cámaras de video y trabajando en equipos, seguirás una ruta y grabaras junto con tu equipo tus opiniones acerca de las calles, los espacios públicos, los edificios, la gente y el medio ambiente en Vistas del Cerro Grande.

Si estas interesado/a en participar en este emocionante experimento, solo regístrate en el Centro Comunitario. Si eres menor de edad, por favor trae a uno de tus papás para que firmen una forma de autorización. La actividad no durará mas de 90 minutos.

**AL FINALIZAR LA ACTIVIDAD,  
2 DE LAS  
CAMARAS-GRABADORAS  
UTILIZADAS SE RIFARAN  
ENTRE LOS PARTICIPANTES.**

*Las cámaras son: Kodak PlaySport de Alta Definición y Resistentes al Agua*

Day 1 in Mexico City //

3/18/13

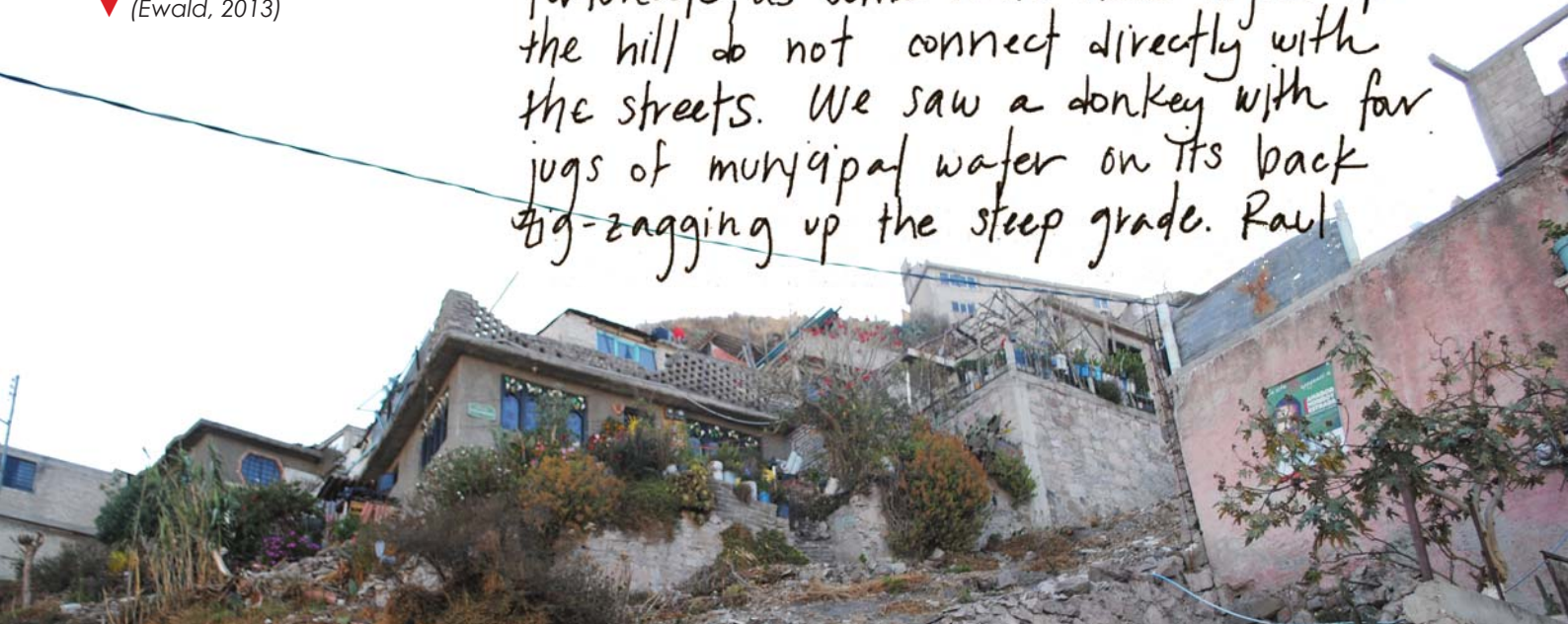
Today was a busy day with an early start. We woke up at 6 AM and left for the Northern edges of the city, where the barrios climb up the sides of the sierras. Raul has never been to these parts of the city before and kept reminding me that together we were forging a new path. The contrast between the wealthy city center and the desperate conditions of poverty is immediately apparent as you enter the urban margins and continue out of the city.

It is interesting, and adrenaline-raising, to drive up the roads at a 45° incline, (or in some cases steeper). The roads have horizontal grooves in the surface to help with traction. Medium-sized busses traverse the hill w/o fear and wind in-and-out of the side streets to pick up passengers. Strangely, these people are fortunate, as some residences higher up the hill do not connect directly with the streets. We saw a donkey with four jugs of municipal water on its back zig-zagging up the steep grade. Raul

**Barrios Marginales on the Sierra**

North of México City

▼ (Ewald, 2013)







**Poverty outside of México City**  
North of México City

▲ (Ewald, 2013)

pointed out that these jugs were used before and refilled, meaning the water was most likely not clean.

We continued out of the barrios and onto Teotihuacan, an archaeological site. Raul is a major advocate for the civilizations that existed in Mexico prior to the arrival of the Spaniards. He is quick to correct my terminology to the Nahuatl version, the lost language of Mexico's indigenous peoples. It is hard to imagine and grasp the magnitude of this intelligent civilization, and even harder to imagine their destruction. Raul's frustration is justified as no efforts have been made to research, understand, and embrace these cultures. Instead most Spanish-Mexicans outcast indigenous descendants to a corner of society, making few advances to simply understand pre-colonial cultures.

The Pyramid of the Sun and the Pyramid of the Moon are impressive structural remains of this former city. It is important





**Teotihuacan Pyramids**  
Northeast of México City

▲ (Ewald, 2013)

to note that many of the names prescribed to pre-Columbian culture are not of Náhuatl origin. Even the term "Indians" is a result of Columbus' mission and contractual obligations to find a new route to India (as Venice had control over the route from Europe to the East). So Columbus did not find India, but to fulfill his contract he insisted that he found "Indians."



In retrospect, climbing up the pyramids (or pirámides) is very similar to the daily ascent that the poor living in the cjerba barrios make to simply reach their homes. Again I am reminded of Raul's words — "Do you think that these people choose to live at the top of the hill?" They have no choice, but instead that is all that society can afford them. Their in-access to basic health and hygiene is inhumane, but a corrupt government system does not offer any promise of change. It is instead "easier" to let things remain the same.



**Water-Carrying Donkey**  
North of México City

► (Ewald, 2013)

On our way out of the archaeological site we stopped at a restaurant and artisan shop for an important demonstration that Paul wanted me to see. This involved a plant called Maguey which was used by the pre-columbian civilizations for a variety of goods, including a beverage, paper, arrows, and needle and thread. This plant alone begins to demonstrate the intelligence and ingenuity of this civilization, and their level of advanced thinking completely separate from the developing world.

Our next stop was a market, or a tianguy, in a town near the Teotihuacan site. Every fresh fruit, vegetable, meat, flower ~~was~~ is available for purchase. We ate food at the market with our cooks directly in front of us, sampling a bit of every flavor. In this moment (and in many moments later in the day and probably the entire trip) I felt regret for not knowing how to speak more fluently in Spanish.

Although I know a range of vocabulary words my confidence is lacking in every sense of the phrase and I am paralyzed by my fear of failing to find the words. I am not sure that I can find this courage over the next several days, but it is certainly a regret. Raul urges me to try, and I want to so badly... I guess we will see how my game plan evolves.

The above begins to lead into a tough talk I had with Raul while driving through Mexico City traffic. He expressed concern, deep concern, for my shyness and told me that I would miss out on so many opportunities if I continue to not try to do/vocalize the things that I want to do. The problem is I'm not even sure that I have dreamt up the possibilities! In an unfamiliar setting I am much more passive than I am in my comfortable home territory, in which I am active to pursue the things that I believe matter. I do not take Raul's



words lightly — if I am in fact serious about this line of work he is in many ways "dead on." — I have a long ways to go. I need to cultivate an inquisitive nature and courage to intimately understand things that are uncomfortable.

The final part of the day included a late night drive in downtown Mexico City, a fast-paced tour of the mostly colonial architecture. Paul tells me that the buildings in the historic center were built directly on top of the Nāhuatl civilization and are built with the same stones that the Toltec's used to build their city. He also told of the sinking city sitting on top of the drained basin and 80 meters of mud until solid ground. It is wild to imagine the geographic, geologic, political, economic, and social perils that this city faces. When the Toltec's were here, this country had all of the ingredients to become

a major world player on the global stage... but now the outlook is bleak, and this vision for Mexico City and Mexico as a whole seems unaffordable.

**Marginal Lifestyles**

Northeast of México City

► (Ewald, 2013)







Day 2 in Mexico City //

3/19/13

Today was different from the first, meaning it was less packed with objectives and goals and much more leisurely. Raul worries that I may not have accomplished my tasks, but the truth is I am honestly not sure I knew what I wanted out of this trip from the start. I knew I wanted to see and understand with my own eyes, but really, is this do-able in such a limited time-frame? I feel as if I am on auto-pilot, overwhelmed and filled with unvoiced questions. I do not know the right questions to ask so instead I am silent, which I believe Raul mistakes for shyness. There seems to be too much for me to wrap my mind around and comprehend, especially when it comes to history. But the poverty is something I can see right away. Do I want to talk to these people and begin to understand from their point of view? Well sure, but my lacking in Spanish makes me feel inferior.

I, like so many others with good intentions, have walked into my project thinking that I have something of value to offer these people, that I can make a difference in their daily lives. But really, I have so much to learn from the culture here, and the values here. More than anything, my objective must be to open up my life to change, to challenge, to humility, to fear and to failure. I am standing on the edge of something much bigger than myself and have yet to commit. What is holding me back? Raul sees into my soul and warns me of this route... so much to learn, to understand. I am no stranger to activism, to leading, to fighting and making things happen. But in this instance, I have yet to empathize with the very people I am fighting for, which means I still have yet to understand them. I pray that my inquisitiveness will continue to increase before I leave this city, and that I can leave feeling satisfied, and that I truly understand.







I am not ready to give up on this adventure. I've come too far to simply pack up and leave, unchanged and unsure. I am at a crossroads because I have the fire, the energy, and the passion, but do I know how to channel this yet? I'm not sure I do. I am just now learning what this will take, what this will require, and although I am not afraid, I pray that I am cut-out for the work.

The market today was incredible, and a testament to Mexico's wealth of goods and land. I am envious of how readily accessible so many items are across the city. Mexico has much to revere and take pride in, which was especially evident at the National Museum of Cultural Anthropology. Unfortunately, Paul continues to stress Mexico's lack of acknowledgement of indigenous cultures and civilization, yet this is an extremely strong characteristic of the country. He continues to ask how do you reverse this country's mentality and mindset, to see and appreciate things differently? "I am not convinced that the answer is readily available."

**Tianguis in Polanco**  
Downtown México City

◀ (Ewald, 2013)

Day 3, Mexico City

3/20/13

Wednesday was very different from my first two days in Mexico City, as I was now in the company of a new ~~far~~ guide with a unique perspective. This was LUIS, born and raised in Mexico City, and a 25-year-old now working in an office on Paseo de la Reforma.

We began in Polanco (where Paul and Marianne live) and rented two bikes from one of the new bike rental stations called "Ecobici." After spending much of day one and two in Mexico City traffic I was nervous to traverse the city on two wheels. Turns out the experience was nothing short of exhilarating. We mostly stuck to the bike-friendly routes (the city has been putting in bike lanes and routes for cyclists). I am incredibly grateful for this unique opportunity.

We first visited Chapultepec Park, which is literally a forest (or "bosque")

in Spanish) of trees. The Castillo de Chapultepec is located within the park and was once the residence of the French emperor Maximilian.

This same emperor was responsible for the design of Paseo de la Reforma, one of the main, French-inspired boulevards in the city. The castle sits atop the highest hill in the park, affording the Emperor a view of people entering the city in the colonial era. Although there is much history in this city, I will not get into too much detail.

We made our way out of the park (on foot) to the Paseo de la Reforma and discussed many things. It is interesting to hear and compare Luis' opinions and concerns with Raul's. We visited a new project site on la Reforma called the Centro de Cultura Digital. This exhibit space is currently the object of controversy, as

### Ecobici Bicycle Station

Downtown México City

▼ (Ewald, 2013)



### Paseo de la Reforma

The view from the Chapultepec Castle

▲ (Ewald, 2013)



the project took longer to build than originally planned and FAP exceeded the budget. Nonetheless it was interesting to experience and see the small amount of people using the space... granted Luis believed the exhibition only opened within the last month or so.

We biked a brief distance to El Angel, a large monument and the focal point of a roundabout on La Reforma. Busses packed with riders drove past, which Luis instantly recognized as an omen for a demonstration (and therefore a traffic clog). We biked on to the historic center of the city stopping at the park Alameda Central. This park was recently updated and is no longer a hot spot for crime, according to Luis. Luis and I also walked along Madero Street, which was converted into a [safer] pedestrian street and leads directly into the Zocalo (the city square).

In the Zocalo and outside of Templo de Mayor there are many street vendors

selling & displaying goods to tourists & passerby's, (most likely not by choice). This is actually illegal, and when a police officer is approaching a man whistles and the vendors quickly pack-up. Again, it is amazing & mind-blowing to see the extreme levels of desperation that the lower classes must go to in order to get by.

**Alameda Central**  
Downtown México City

▼ (Ewald, 2013)





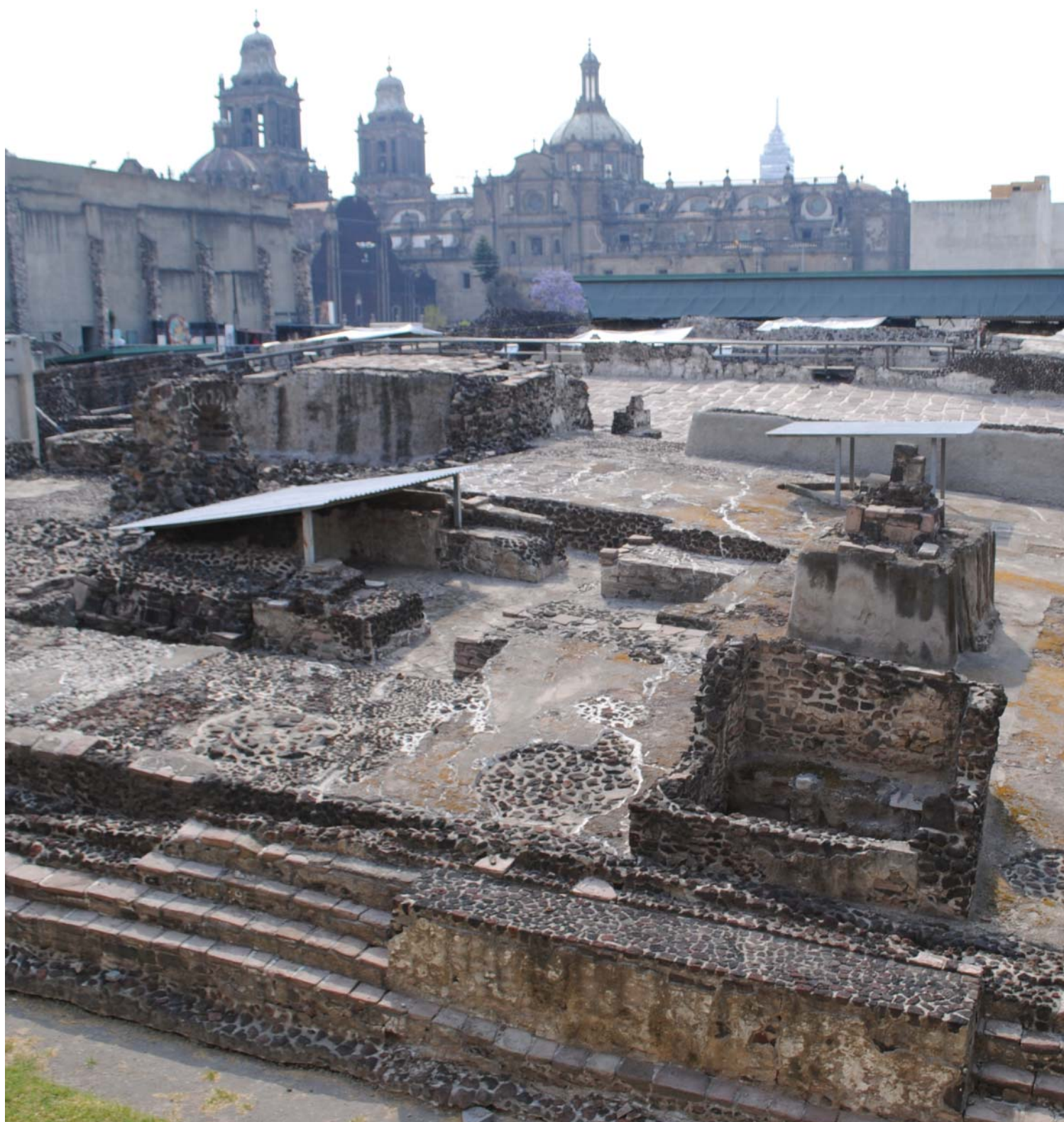
**Templo Mayor**  
Downtown México City

► (Ewald, 2013)

While in the city center we also visited el Templo Mayor, what little remains of it after the Spanish and European settlers moved into the city. The evidence of plumbing systems is incredible to see, as well as the ruthlessness the settlers displayed, tearing down the Toltec structures and using the materials to build their own buildings. What a loss...

Dinner involved many authentic Mexican dishes including ant eggs (or escamoles in Spanish) - surprisingly good! And after biking 45 minutes plus back to Polanco I am finally ready to pack up and head back to the States.





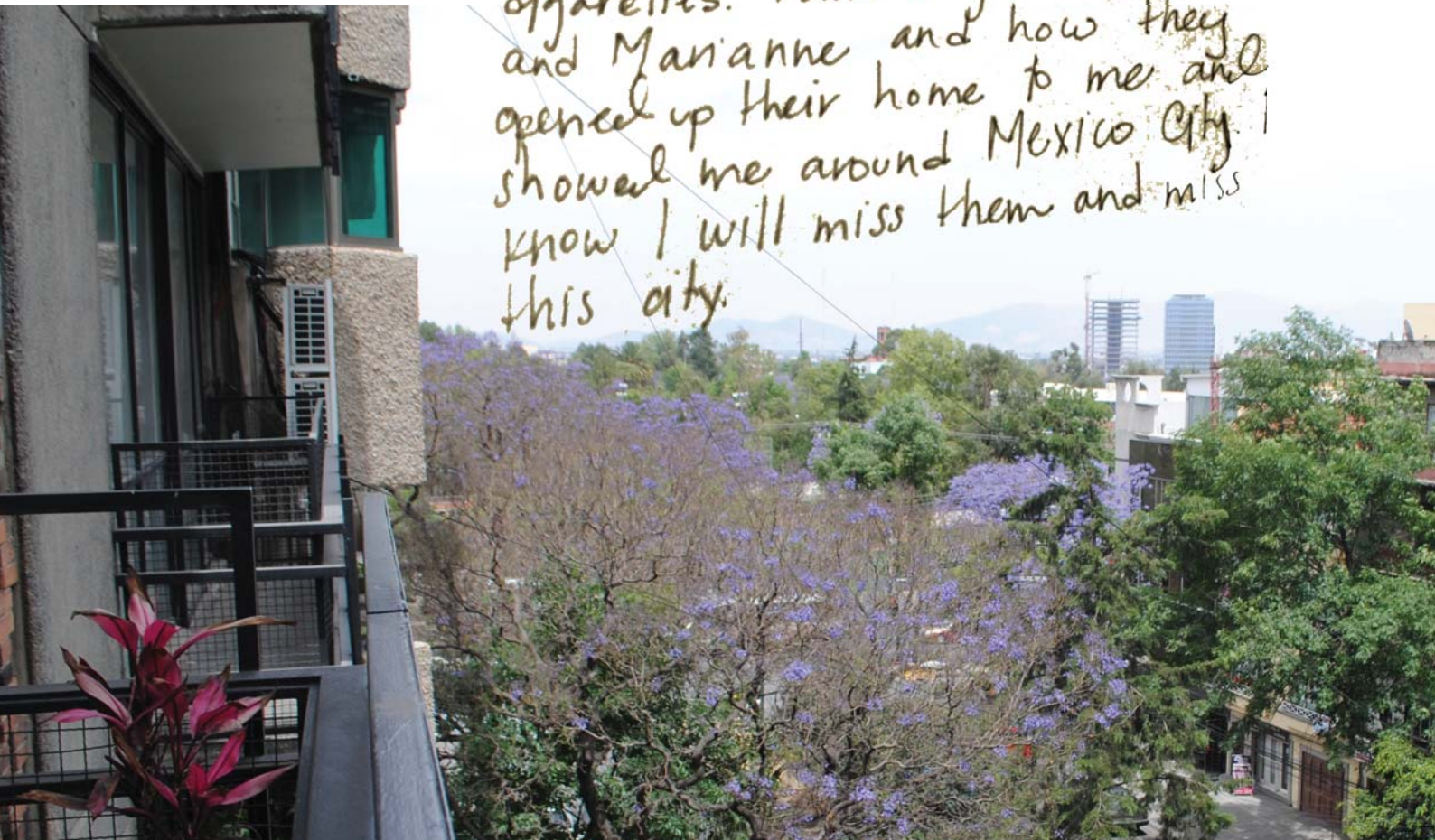


Day 4, 1/2 day in Mexico City 3/21/13

I am sad to say that my time in Mexico City has come to an end.

I am sitting in the airport waiting to leave and I am filled with many emotions. If I could do this over again I would first stay longer, two weeks minimum. But a year is much more ideal. I would also brush up my Spanish and not be so shy about using the language.

My clothes smell of smoke from Paul's cigarettes. I am so grateful for him and Marianne and how they opened up their home to me and showed me around Mexico City. I know I will miss them and miss this city.

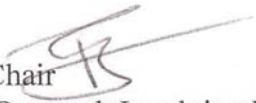


To cap off my visit to Mexico City, Raul and I went to Carlos Slim's museum, the richest man in the world. The museum stands in stark contrast to the economic conditions of the country. Why is the scale so unevenly tipped in the favor of the wealthiest individuals who represent the smallest percentage of the city.

Albeit short, coming here was worthwhile for learning and beginning to understand the socio-economic complexities that Mexico is currently submerged in. There is a long ways to go...



TO: Huston Gibson  
LARCP  
302 Seaton Hall

FROM: Rick Scheidt, Chair   
Committee on Research Involving Human Subjects

DATE: 12/21/2012

RE: Proposal #6459.1, entitled "Social Streets: Using Purpose-Oriented Streetscape Amenities and Programming to Enhance Adolescent Development in Mexico."

MODIFICATION OF IRB PROTOCOL #6459, ENTITLED, "Social Streets: Using Purpose-Oriented Streetscape Amenities and Programming to Enhance Adolescent Development in Mexico"

EXPIRATION DATE: 12/03/13

The Committee on Research Involving Human Subjects (IRB) has reviewed and approved the request identified above as a modification of a previously approved protocol. **Please note that the original expiration remains the same.**

All approved IRB protocols are subject to continuing review at least annually, which may include the examination of records connected with the project. Announced in-progress reviews may also be performed during the course of this approval period by a member of the University Research Compliance Office staff. Unanticipated adverse events involving risk to subjects or to others must be reported immediately to the Chair of the IRB, and / or the URCO

It is important that your human subjects activity is consistent with submissions to funding / contract entities. It is your responsibility to initiate notification procedures to any funding / contract entity of any changes in your activity that affects the use of human subjects.



